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THURSDAY, OCTOBER 2ND, 2014

Young people's advice centre in Porthcawl
Page 5

In Business Update
SEE OUR FEATURE ON PAGES 18-19

St John's House welcomes the public
Page 6

'IT'S ONE FOR THE MONEY, TWO FOR THE SHOW...'

ELVIS IS BACK IN THE BUILDING!

It was the time of year when Porthcawl gets its moment in the national spotlight, as the Elvis Festival came to town. For local residents, it was a question of looking to see if the festival would get a mention in the national media – and it certainly did in a significant number of publications – including The Guardian!

In the event, the festival was blessed with fine weather, and the general consensus was that it was the busiest yet.

Revellers such as the group above, photographed by Glyn Evans, had a great time.

(For more pictures of the event, see page 16)

Residents proud of their Great Bridgend Bake-Off!

RIGHT: Christine Richards, resident, and Emma Lambert, health care support worker, with the unit's certificate from Macmillan.

FUNDRAISING was a piece of cake for mental health patients in Bridgend when residents of Cefn yr Afon organised a coffee and cake sale in support of Macmillan – raising £348.62 for the cancer charity.

Cefn yr Afon is a residential unit for adults with serious mental health conditions such as schizophrenia and bi-polar disorder.

People stay at the unit to learn to manage their condition so they can return to the community.

After seeing an advert for Macmillan coffee mornings, one of them came up with an idea to raise money for the cancer charity.

The residents created posters and flyers to advertise their event and helped to make some of the items which were sold.

They also had a bake-off competition between the different houses.

Kath Hart, unit manager, said: "Activities such as this help bring residents and staff together as a community. Residents have an increased sense of worth by organising events and they also provide opportunities for them to build upon existing skills and develop new ones during their recovery.

"Events such as this promote independence for residents on their journey back into the community. By advertising the event within the community they feel part of it."

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 13)

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Assembly cash for the Porthcawl town centre welcomed by Tory AM

NEWS that Porthcawl is to get a share of a £845,000 Assembly pot to boost its town centre, has been welcomed by a regional Tory AM, Suzy Davies.

Porthcawl is one of 20 towns throughout Wales to get up to £50,000 each from the Welsh Government from its new Town Centre Partnership Fund.

The money could be spent on a number of projects including a feasibility study to see if all-weather canopies can be erected along John Street to protect shoppers, as well as marketing and branding initiatives including promotions, town centre events, banners and setting up a click and collect scheme.

Thirty traders will also be invited to attend classes on how to improve customer services and marketing, among other things.

Funding will also be provided for a surfing festival and for gateway signs to the town centre.

Mrs Davies, a Welsh Conservative regional AM for South Wales West, said that she was anxious to ensure that the money allocated to Porthcawl was spent effectively.

"This initiative of the Welsh Government to promote our High Streets is long overdue," she said. "For two years, the Welsh Conservatives have urged the Government to stop the decline of our town centres, but until now they have done nothing. I welcome this news, but the big question for Porthcawl is who is to decide how this money should be spent?

"BCBC does not have a great record when it comes to the regeneration of Porthcawl – indeed, it is the residents themselves who have taken the lead with the proposed maritime centre, showing far more imagination and creativity than the council and its highly paid consultants.

"Traders in Porthcawl must be included in any decisions about what to do with the money. This cannot be a top-down exercise where bureaucrats decide what should be done to promote the town when it is the shopkeepers, other businesses and the residents who know what's needed."

ABOVE: David Emmanuel (left) with Ann and John Murphy.
Photograph by Jacqui Barnes, YMCA trustee.

Pupil turns the tables on teacher at YMCA!

WHEN Porthcawl YMCA wanted to thank Ann and John Murphy for their donations of art work over many years, a pupil of Ann's turned up to do the honours.

David Emmanuel thanked Ann for her encouragement and direction when as a pupil he was unsure of his future career.

At a small ceremony, David also thanked John and Ann for their many works of art which are displayed in the Y Centre. On behalf of the YMCA, he presented Ann and John with a thank you certificate and unveiled a panel in the coffee lounge.

John's paintings brighten the walls of the main hall and the coffee lounge where a sculpture of his stands in the window, whilst Ann's hand embroidered banners and panels enhance the coffee lounge and the stairwell. At Christmas, her banners line the entrance to Santa's Grotto.

All the art work can be seen in the Y Centre at any time. There is also an exhibition of art depicting World War One by Silures Art Group, who meet in the Y Centre every Wednesday evening.

John Berry
President Porthcawl YMCA

Maesteg community volunteers win praise from Commissioner

Three of the volunteers who provide a community lunch in Maesteg.

THE Older People's Commissioner for Wales has praised a group of volunteers who cook a community lunch for 50 people every month.

The commissioner's team visited St Cynfelyn Church on Cymmer Road, Caerau, Maesteg recently, to meet and speak with local residents, who get together on a regular basis to enjoy home-made soup, cake, tea and coffee.

The commissioner, Sarah Rochira, said: "The soup lunch provides a wonderful opportunity for the whole community to come together. Residents from a local care home described how it was the one chance they have to socialise outside their home and how it means they can still be part of the local community.

"There was a wonderful atmosphere at the church and the lunch provided an opportunity for many people, who would usually eat alone, to enjoy lunch with friends. It is an invaluable initiative for many residents who may otherwise be at risk of becoming lonely and isolated."

Marina meal with a view

THE Porthcawl Parkinson's Support Group was launched four years ago, and to celebrate we took a boat trip.

Travelling from the Swansea Marina up the river *Tawe*, we passed where the copper was smelted. Surprisingly, there are still signs of the old building along the river bank.

Our guide showed us slides of how it looked in earlier days. After the boat trip, we made our way to a restaurant on top of the tower, the 28th floor, where we ate and enjoyed great views of the marina.

The day was a great success and thoroughly enjoyed by all.

Our next meeting is October 31 at 10:30am in the Unitarian chapel schoolroom, Nottage. For further information, contact 01656 783071. **RC**

'Give more help to local enterprise' – *call*

ABOVE: Meirion Jenkins with Donna Turner-Kot, chief executive of n-ergy.

CONSERVATIVE parliamentary candidate for Bridgend, Meirion Jenkins, is calling for a review of Government procurement to help local enterprises, following a visit to local business n-ergy, based at Charnwood Park.

It helps offenders in prison develop new skills and undertake nationally recognised qualifications followed by specialist recruitment support to help them find sustainable work on release.

He met Chief Executive Donna Turner-Kot who founded the company back in 2007 and now employs 60 people with a turnover of £3 million.

Jobs fair a success

A TOTAL of 39 stands offered jobs, training and support at Bridgend's fifth annual jobs and information fair, held recently at Bridgend Life Centre.

Organised by Bridgend County Borough Council and Job Centre Plus, it was formally opened by Coun David Sage, the council's deputy leader.

He reported: "I was impressed by the number of employers and agencies who were at the event and even found time to lend a hand on the Workways stalls. This annual jobs event always draws a strong response and support from employers and training providers and, by working together with JobCentre Plus in such close partnership we are pleased to help provide local job seekers with expert advice and support that will help them find work, improve their quality of life and boost the local economy."

A success story came in the shape of a Maesteg resident who reported that she was starting work after meeting and being interviewed by an employer at the jobs fair, while more than 60 people completed application forms on the day to receive further support from the council's Workways employability project.

Readers' Letters

'Airport needs more airlines'

I NOTED the letter in The GEM from the managing director of Cardiff Airport who mentions disruption to passengers during the Nato Summit – what passengers?

As usual this year, I had to fly from Bristol to get a seat to Corfu with Easy Jet.

I live just 10 minutes from Cardiff Airport. Mrs Barber, it's more access to airlines we need – not Nato. Please cut your landing fees.

Mike Clemett, Barry.

'Thank you to Airport staff'

AS a disabled passenger, I would like to thank the staff of Cardiff Airport for their great assistance; and also for the help and advice I received concerning my missing luggage.

Guy Owen, Llanblethian.

PACT meetings

SARN 'Cuppa with a Copper', October 2, Sarn Life Centre at 1.30pm.

BLACKMILL PACT, October 6, Blackmill Community Centre at 6pm.

SARN / BRYNCOCH PACT, October 6, Sarn Life Centre at 7pm.

YNYSAWDRE PACT, October 8, Ynysawdre Community Hall at 6pm.

MAESTEG EAST/WEST PACT, October 13, Cwm Calon Day Centre at 6pm.

ABERKENFIG/PENYFA PACT, October 13, Penyfai Chapel at 7pm.

BETTWS PACT, October 16, Bettws Life Centre at 1.30pm.

CAERAU PACT, October 27, Noddfa Chapel at 6pm.

Coffee for Macmillan

A VERY well-supported Macmillan Coffee morning was held at Middleton Court, Porthcawl on Friday, September 26, when £805 was raised for the charity.

A spokeswoman said: "We would like to thank the hotels, coffee shops and retailers of Porthcawl who very generously donated raffle prizes".

We abide by the code of practice upheld by the Independent Press Standards Organisation (IPSO). This contains provisions for issues such as accuracy.

If you have a complaint, write to us at the address below, left, or call editorial manager Don John on 01446 774484. All complaints will be fully investigated. If you are not satisfied with the outcome, you may wish to contact IPSO c/o Halton House, 20-23 High Holborn, London EC1N 2JD. Website: www.ipso.co.uk. Tel: 0300 123 2220. E-Mail: complaints@ipso.co.uk. Enquiries: inquiries@ipso.co.uk.

HIGH TIDE TIMES
(UNTIL OCTOBER 9)

The high tides listed in this week's GEM are those in Porthcawl. It should be remembered that along the coast, high tide times will vary. For instance, in Barry, the high point will be 20 – 25 minutes later.

DATE	Time AM	Ht M	Time PM	Ht M
02 Thur			12.37	8.1
03 Fri	01.15	7.9	14.04	7.9
04 Sat	02.52	7.8	15.31	8.3
05 Sun	04.12	8.5	16.39	9.0
06 Mon	05.11	9.2	17.36	9.7
07 Tues	05.58	9.8	18.24	10.3
08 Wed	06.49	10.3	19.11	10.6
09 Thur	07.32	10.4	19.54	10.7

While The GEM makes every effort to check the accuracy of tide tables, we recommend that anyone putting out to sea, or walking in an area where they could be cut off, should check with a tide table specific to their location.

E-Mail Contacts: *gemeditorial@tindlenews.co.uk* • *gemsales@tindlenews.co.uk* • Tel 01446 774484
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Cycle ride fundraises for Cancer Relief UK

Porthcawl Mayor Coun Sean Aspey was the official starter.

PHOTOGRAPHS by MATTHEW ROBERTS

THE Porthcawl committee of Cancer Research UK (CRUK) held a fundraising bike ride recently – and the event raised more than £1,100!

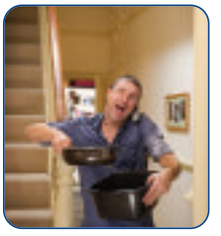
Press spokeswoman Diane Jones told The GEM: "We used to hold regular bike rides, but not in recent years. Deciding to restart the event proved to be a good decision.

"Riders could choose a three kilometre or a six kilometre route, both starting and finishing at Porthcawl Rugby Club.

"We would like to thank the club for its support, and we also had help from the local PCSOs."

ABOVE: Is that Bradley Wiggins? He's got the gear – and the beard!

NO WIN NO FEE!



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THE SALE OF GLANOGWR OFFICES SITE AGREED

CABINET members from Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC) have agreed to the sale of the Glanogwr offices site near Newbridge Fields in Bridgend.

Local residents had expressed concerns that any development of the site may lead to access being lost between Glanogwr Road and Newbridge Fields.

However, a footpath running alongside the offices will definitely be retained, although it may need to be moved as part of the development.

A BCBC spokesman said: "As well as the possible loss of the footpath, residents' objections also related to the loss of public open space and parking facilities, and a petition was presented to the council.

"Having fully considered all of the objections, cabinet members have agreed the sale."

The premises previously accommodated Bridgend Town Council, but became vacant after town council officers relocated to the former Bridgend Library at Carnegie House in the town centre.

Coun Mike Gregory, cabinet member for resources said: "I fully appreciate that a number of people living in the area around the Glanogwr offices site have expressed concerns, as this path is a well-used and convenient route for dog walkers, school pupils, pedestrians making their way to the library and leisure facilities at the Bridgend Life Centre – and people generally enjoying the access to Newbridge Fields.

"I would like to reassure everyone that, despite the sale of the offices and associated land, there will still be a footpath, although the path may need to be moved as part of the development.

"The path has also now been designated as a public right of way which protects its retention.

"No land at Newbridge Fields is being sold, and the zig-zag path and steps leading down to Newbridge Fields are not included in the sale either.

"The Glanogwr offices site is no longer needed by the local authority, so therefore we have decided to sell it in order to help us achieve budget savings and protect front-line services in the county borough as much as possible.

"Concerns have also been expressed about the loss of the Glanogwr Offices car park, which was used on weekends and light evenings for sports fixtures.

"While it has never been a designated public car park for Newbridge Fields, and was only intended to provide parking for the offices, I appreciate that it has helped to reduce congestion elsewhere along the street.

"To help reduce parking problems, the council has recently purchased additional land to the south of Newbridge Fields; and planning approval has been given for the proposed creation of a new 50 space car park which would serve users of the sports pitches.

"I am sure that this would be welcomed."

Night life of birds, bats and bugs!

WILDLIFE enthusiasts descended on Kenfig National Nature Reserve recently to learn more about the nocturnal activities of birds, bats and bugs.

The event, run by the Bridgend Countryside Volunteering Network, followed a highly successful evening of 'Moths and Mammals' at Bryngarw House and Country Park in May.

Indoor activities on the night included willow weaved bird feeders, driftwood crafts and a bat demonstration with two live rescued bats.

Among the outdoor activities – timed to coincide with the equinox – were pond dipping, bat walk, a bug hunt, moth trapping and bird ringing.

Visitors enjoyed the evening at Kenfig Nature Reserve.

Highlights of a busy summer at the Coity WI

COITY WI's September meeting was opened by president Lyn Griffiths, who welcomed members back after the summer break.

Some were taking part in the federation quiz at the Hi-Tide, Porthcawl. We were reminded of events that had taken place during the summer break. The summer trip was to Carmarthen, where activities had been arranged by vice-president Ann Mutton.

The day began with a visit to Carmarthen Museum, a small but fascinating little museum, then to Llanpimsaint for lunch, followed by a visit to the Gwili Potteries.

The highlight of the day came as we made for the Gwili Railway for a nostalgic journey to the age of steam. Afternoon tea on board had been arranged.

The Luncheon Club met for the first time during the summer break at the Nichols Arms, Coytrahen.

Some of our members made the Link trip to Brobury Gardens Hereford, and the craft class was delighted to have our 'resident potter' Teri to help make sheep from clay!

The president introduced the speaker, Mrs Pamela Robson, who reminded us of when we had to 'Dial O for Operator'.

The next coffee morning will be on October 10, at Ewenny; and a there will be Ceilidh night on October17.

The next meeting will is on October 16, at Gilead Hall at 7pm, when the speaker will be Gail Roberts, talking on 'personal skin care'.

New members or visitors welcome.

ES

'Give 250,000 people a pay rise'

PLAID CYMRU has unveiled its first signature policy for the 2015 General Election Campaign – a Living Wage that would secure a pay rise for more than 250,000 Welsh workers.

The candidate for Ogmore, Tim Thomas, said: "Plaid Cymru believes that nobody in Wales should be paid less than they need to live upon. That is why we pledge to give more than 250,000 Welsh workers a pay rise by making the Living Wage a key commitment for the 2015 general election campaign.

"By raising the minimum wage to be in line with the Living Wage, we will be able to raise living standards and boost local economies, as people will have more money in their pockets to spend.

"Analysis shows that it is more commonly women, the under 30s and part-time workers who suffer most from low wages. A Living Wage would ensure that none of these groups are left behind and improve the lot of entire households, not just individuals."

Library backs drive to boost young readers

William Jones pictured with his free copy of Diary of a Wimpy Kid.

BRIDGEND Library has supported ITV Good Morning Britain's 'Just Read' campaign by giving away 50 copies of bestselling book *Diary of a Wimpy Kid* to local children.

Coun Lyn Morgan, Bridgend County Borough Council cabinet member for wellbeing, said: "It's fantastic that Bridgend Library took part in such a worthy national campaign. It is vital for a child's development that they are given the opportunity to read on a regular basis.

"This great initiative, which encourages parents and carers to spend 10 minutes reading with their children every day, can help youngsters develop their literacy skills while discovering fascinating stories."

Who wants to build what and where?

Herbert R Thomas – **The Toll House, 1 Derwen Road, Bridgend** – Three fascia and four hanging signs; Fascia lettering in stainless steel/brushed aluminium, hanging sign and board sign.

Mr Roger Finch – **23 St Georges Avenue, Wildmill** – Various works to Ash and Sycamore trees and felling of Oak tree.

Mr Michael Gale – **20 Coed y Graig, Pencoed** – Crown lifting, crown reduction and crown thinning of Oak trees and remove dead wood and branch reduction.

Mr Lee Simmonds – **Land adjacent 15 West Rhondda Road, Pontyrhyl** – Construct one detached dwelling and provide access.

Miss Vanessa Bryant – **82 Heol Bryncwils, Sarn** – Convert property to two dwellings with first floor side, two-storey rear extension and side porch.

Mrs K Monkton – **6 Heol y Felin, Bettws** – Single storey extension to provide shower room.

Mr Jim Hume – **19 Heol Eglwys, Pen-y-Fai** – Remove existing flat roof dormer and replace with low pitch roof and raise main house roof.

Miss Kirsty Thomas – **71 Nolton Street, Bridgend** – Change of use from A2 (financial and professional) to A3 (tea room and sandwich bar).

Mrs L Storer – **Plot 5, Stable Lane (off new Street) Pantygog, Pontycymmer** – Three bedroom two-storey dwelling.

South Wales Police – **Police Headquarters, Cowbridge Road, Bridgend** – Proposed four extract ducts to side elevation of SSU building.

Mr Marc Joseph – **25 Salisbury Road, Maesteg** – Two storey addition to rear elevation and forming new retaining walls to garden.

Darlow Lloyd Construction Ltd – **Nantyffyllon RFC, Blosse Street, Nantyffyllon, Maesteg** – Amendment to approval :/12/728/FUL to change club windows from gunmetal aluminium to white PVC.

Mr Richard Hallett – **Land at Madoc Close, Brackla** – Construct eight single bedroom apartments.

Mr D Bayliss – **44 Cefn Glas Road, Cefn Glas, Bridgend** – Roof extension and loft conversion to include dormers to front and rear.

Redrow Homes (South Wales Ltd) – **Plot 19, Afon Gardens, Abergarw Road** – Proposed alteration of approved dwelling to include rear conservatory.

Redrow Homes (South Wales) Ltd – **Plot 16, Afon Gardens, Abergarw Road, Bridgend** – Proposed alteration of approved dwelling to include rear conservatory extension.

Redrow Homes (South Wales) Ltd – **Plot 14, Afon Gardens, Abergarw Road** – Proposed alteration of approved dwelling to include rear conservatory.

Rhondda Cynon Taff – **Fforch Net Wind Farm, Glyn Ogwr** – Obs for variation of condition relating to noise limits.

Mr Ken Roberts – **Land off Llan Road (Cherry Lodge Farm), Llangynwyd, Maesteg** – Prior notification for a storage shed to accommodate a container that stores machinery and implements.

Treforest Tiling Limited – **Plot D4 (A) off North Road, Bridgend Industrial Estate** – Single storey office accommodation, alterations to site boundary fencing and siting of steel storage container.

Mr McCormick – **Plot 94, Cilgant y Lein, Woodland Gardens, Pyle** – Proposed alteration of approved dwelling to include rear conservatory.

Mr Stephen Parker – **Penylan Lodge, Ton Kenfig** – Steel balcony to rear of first floor with spiral staircase down to ground floor.

Mr John Davies – **1 South View off Lower Adare Street, Pontycymmer** – Construction of detached domestic garage.

Maes Glas Vets Limited – **Church Acre, Brackla** – Two single storey extensions to existing veterinary surgery.

Mr Gareth Williams – **The White House, Briary Way, Brackla** – Retrospective application for tree house.

ABOVE: The Deputy Mayor of Bridgend county borough, Coun Richard Young and Madeleine Moon, MP for Bridgend, at an open day in the Health and Wellbeing Centre.

£30,000 grant sounds suite to comprehensive!

Deputy head Shaun Clarke is pictured with Coun Briony Davies and Rev Canon Edward Evans in the new IT Suite.

THE chair of Laleston Community Council, Coun Briony Davies has presented a cheque for £30,000 to Rev Canon Edward Evans, chair of the governing body of Bryntirion Comprehensive, Bridgend.

The council was approached by the headteacher earlier this year to ask for some support in refurbishing the youth wing and unanimously decided to foot the bill for furnishing and equipping the new sixth form IT suite and provide furniture for the main common room.

A spokesman said: "The newly-completed suite is going to play a significant role in providing sixth formers with up-to-date technology and a great environment within which to work. The school is extremely pleased with the new suite and looking forward to using it.

"Laleston Community Council is delighted to have provided a much-needed facility for the young students of our community."

Local parents give their views on new school regulations

PARENTS in Bridgend have been giving their views on new regulations which are introducing fines as a measure to help tackle poor school attendance, truancy and persistent lateness.

National regulations recently came into force requiring all local authorities to implement the use of fixed penalty notices for unauthorised absences from school, and Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC) is adopting a code of conduct so that the legislation can be applied consistently across all local schools.

It is being proposed that penalty notices will be used when pupils have taken at least five unauthorised days off school during a term, or consistently arrive late at school after the close of the registration period, or take unauthorised holidays during term time.

The initial penalty notice will be £60, rising to £120 if payment isn't made within a specified period of time.

BCBC has carried out a public consultation to find out the views of local families on the proposals, and 345 responses were received. The survey was available to complete online on the council's website, while comments were also invited via letter, email and over the phone.

A BCBC spokesman said: "The consultation found that many respondents opposed the introduction of a penalty fine for taking children on term-time holidays, but agreed on the importance of attendance and punctuality in school.

"Ninety five per cent of the respondents felt that there was a need for exceptional circumstances to be taken into account when authorising absences, with 25 per cent suggesting that holidays and family time should be considered under that bracket, as well as compassionate reasons and work-based constraints.

"The findings of the consultation have been noted by cabinet members from BCBC and will now be shared with schools. The code of conduct will give headteachers, their nominated deputies and the Police the powers to request fixed penalty notices to be issued. However, the issuing of the fines will remain the responsibility of the council's education welfare service."

Coun Huw David, BCBC cabinet member for children and young people, said: "Success starts at school and parents have a legal responsibility to ensure that their children attend school.

"New national legislation means that fixed penalty notices will definitely be introduced, but the consultation exercise has helped us to gather local opinion, particularly on what should be considered as 'exceptional circumstances'.

"Ultimately, the decision on whether to authorise an absence rests with headteachers, but as there is such strong public opinion on this issue, we will be sharing the consultation results with schools, and the local authority will be on hand to provide advice.

"On average, pupils who have regular and punctual attendance throughout their academic career are more likely to get better grades and make the most of the educational opportunities available to them.

"Our Education Welfare Service will always work with local families to help resolve any problems or obstacles that may stand in their way; and fixed penalty notices will provide an additional option that can be used as part of a range of measures to tackle circumstances of pupils being absent from school without acceptable reasons.

"We will also continue to have the option of resorting to legal measures when necessary," the spokesman warned.

Advice centre for young people opens in Porthcawl

A NEW Health and Wellbeing Centre at Griffin Park, Porthcawl, offers young people information, advice and guidance relating to sexual health, sexual exploitation, and substance use/misuse, and alcohol, risk taking behaviour, smoking and nutrition.

Run by BCBC's youth service, the centre is open daily from Monday to Friday between10am and 5pm and provides counselling for children and young people.

It is home to the 'Bridgend says End Bullying' (BsEB) project, which offers support to young people, and raises awareness of bullying issues.

Stand-ins' mouthwatering report on hectic weekend!

SEPTEMBER has been a busy month for members of Southerndown WI. There was disappointment, however, during the meeting on September 11 when the scheduled speaker was unable to attend at short notice.

But the president, Meryl stepped in, ably supported by Margaret, and they gave an interesting talk on their recent weekend trip to Denman, the WI's training establishment in the Oxfordshire countryside.

It was a busy weekend and the course they attended included several guided visits to houses of interest.

They also found time to take photographs of the beautiful grounds of Denman – and their descriptions of the food that was provided made several members wish they, too, had attended!

A 'taster day' of archery and shooting, followed by a falconry demonstration, was enjoyed by other members, and the walking group, quilting group and reading group continued their activities.

A charity fashion show was hosted by the WI on September 18 when more than 70 people from the local villages were entertained by WI members modelling clothes provided by Samantha B's emporium in Ewenny.

Pam, Sheila, Margaret, Lyn, Meryl and Marj each modelled six different outfits – from casual to formal – all described by Samantha, who included amusing anecdotes throughout the evening.

We are very grateful to Samantha for all her hard work – as well as being fun, the evening was a great success, raising almost £500, which will be donated to a local Alzheimer's charity in recognition of the fact that the dreadful disease has touched the families of several WI members in recent years.

Our next meeting will be held on Thursday, October 9, at 7.15pm in St Brides Major Church Hall. New members will always be made welcome – and at this time of the year you can try out the WI before joining in January 2015.

Ogmore Castle vintage tractor run in the Vale

THE Ogmore Castle vintage tractor run will be held on October 5 in the Ogmore Castle Field, by permission of Mr Robert Williams.

All participants are required to complete an entry form with their name, address and insurance cover number and will be issued with a number.

Tractors and equipment, (link boxes and trailers) must be in good condition and safe; and there must be approximately five tractor lengths between each vehicle.

There must be no overtaking on the route, other than breakdowns, and due consideration must be given to other road users – drivers, walkers, cyclists, horse-riders.

The planned route will be: Ogmore – Southerndown – Wick – Colwinston – Llysworney – Pentre Meyrick – Corntown – Ewenny – Ogmore Village.

Entry forms for sponsorship can be obtained on 01656 654440. ***Basil George***

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BRIDGEND'S HISTORIC HOUSE WELCOMES VISITORS ON SPECIAL OPEN DOORS DAY

Photos by **MANDY THOMAS**
(Available for purchase, telephone 07541 982794)
www.mandythomasphotography.co.uk

ST John's House Trust (Bridgend) recently enjoyed a very busy and successful weekend, taking part in the Open Doors event and Bridgend Feastival.

St John's House on Newcastle Hill in Bridgend is the oldest habitable building in the area and is believed to have been built around 1500.

Presently, the building is owned by a building preservation trust in London which is prepared to sell the property.

In order to buy the house, restore it and allow it be enjoyed and used by the whole community, a group of local residents formed a charity in 2012.

St John's House is one of four Grade Two* listed buildings in the Newcastle conservation area of Bridgend and has been identified as a "hearth passage house of high status" although so far very little is known of its origins and history.

We would like to see the building as a Heritage Hub, having many uses such as educational, living history events, an art gallery, tea-room and even a unique wedding venue!

The trust had a stand on both days of Bridgend Feastival, with its three authentically dressed medieval peasant women attracting much attention!

Even more characters could be seen at the house, where medieval longbowmen and women re-enactors, and 'Sons of the Dragon' took up residence with their displays of archery equipment, herbs and surgical instruments.

Over 160 people visited the property over the weekend, with many offering their support and expressing interest in the project to bring this beautiful building back to life.

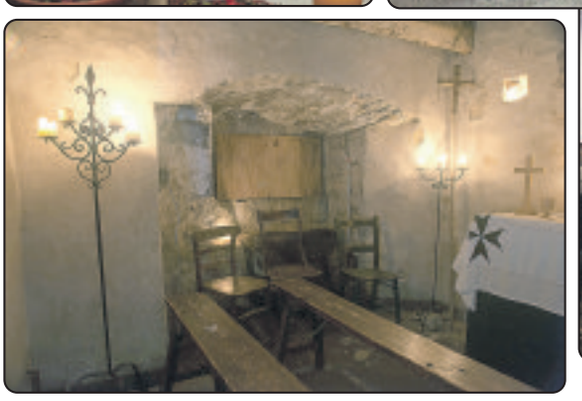
The trust has recently submitted a grant application to the Heritage Lottery Fund to enable the first stages of work to begin and hopes to hear in December if it has been successful.

The house is open, free of charge, on the last Saturday of every month (except December) from 11am to 3pm. More information can be found at the website: www.stjohns-bridgend.org.uk

Report by WENDY HINTON.

ABOVE: The team aiming to bring St John's House back to its former glory, some dressed in medieval garb.

ABOVE: An ancient archway.
BELOW: A wall carving.



ABOVE: making medieval music.

Local schools celebrate £40,000 Assembly windfall for safe routes

ABOVE: Back row (left to right): Dr Mark Pickett, chair of the governing body at Porthcawl Primary School; headteacher, Andrew Wood; Coun Michael Gregory, BCBC cabinet member for resources; Coun Phil White, BCBC cabinet member for communities; Edwina Hart, Welsh Government Minister for Economy, Science and Transport; Coun Huw David, BCBC cabinet member for children and young people, and Coun Brian Jones, local Member for Porthcawl. Front row (left to right): Porthcawl Primary School pupils Dylan Kimpton (7); Jacob Protheroe-Jones (6), and Lacey Davies, (6).

TWO primary schools in Bridgend county borough are celebrating – after receiving more than £400,000 from the Welsh Government to develop safe walking and cycling routes.

As part of the Safe Routes in Communities programme for 2014/15, Porthcawl Primary School has been awarded £275,718 for a new cycleway, ramp and gate entrance, along with upgrades to existing footways and cycleways, cycle storage and improved safety measures on nearby roads.

Tremains Primary School has received £173,708 for a new footpath, the widening of an existing footpath and cycle storage.

The schools have been working in partnership with Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC) and the Welsh Government to produce travel plans and research ways in which children get to and from school, factoring in traffic speeds, available crossing points, dropped kerb locations and different routes.

At a special launch event attended by Mrs Hart on Thursday, September 18, youngsters at Porthcawl Primary School gave a presentation on the project and showcased some of the skills they have been taught by BCBC's 'Bike It' officer, Roger Dutton.

Coun Huw David, cabinet member for children and young people, said: "Whether they choose to walk or cycle, it is absolutely essential that our young people are able to travel to and from school safely.

"We are delighted that the Welsh Government has decided to award these very generous grants, and we hope that the scheme will encourage pupils to become more physically active and independent."

With work already under way on new safe routes for Cynffig Comprehensive and Corneli Primary, the initiative promotes physical exercise, health awareness and the importance of leading active lifestyles. All four schemes are expected to be completed by the end of March 2015.

The Tremains scheme will involve widening all of Channel View to a 3.5 metre-wide cycle route, measuring 605 metres in length.

The Porthcawl scheme covers an area of 41,000 square metres of highway space, and involves the creation of cycle tracks on the existing highway verge and other pedestrian works such as dropped kerbs and widening of pavements.

Mrs Hart added: "I am very pleased to be able to announce this extra funding under the Safe Routes in Communities programme. This means pupils at two more schools will now be able to benefit from safe walking and cycling routes.

"The Welsh Government wants to see as many pupils have the opportunity to walk or cycle safely to school to encourage physical activity and reduce reliance on the car."

Andrew Wood, Porthcawl Primary School headteacher, added: "We are delighted with the decision of the Minister to award the development funds for this Safe Routes project. This funding is not just for the pupils of the school, but incorporates important elements for the whole community.

"The impact of this decision will be immense, as it not only reinforces the work of the school in developing healthy lifestyles and a wide range of health related activities, but supports curriculum development in the key areas of literacy, numeracy and ecological awareness.

"I predict that there will be a significant increase in cycling to school as the whole development promotes safety, physical fitness and the reduction of car use."

Evening of song spans pair of continents at Ewenny Priory

Soprano Gail Pearson with pianist Caradog Williams at Ewenny Priory Church.

CARDIFF-BASED soprano Gail Pearson and pianist Caradog Williams performed An Evening of Song at Ewenny Priory Church on September 25.

With a repertoire stretching from baroque to contemporary, the programme spanned four centuries and two continents.

The first half began with Poulenc's Fiancailles Pour Rire and proceeded through Ravel, Rodrigo and Obradors, with such thrilling pieces as Ah Chiquita la Novia and El Vito.

The second half opened with Morfydd Owen's Gweddi y Pechadur and continued through a treasure trove of Copland, Barber and Duke before ending with M Williams' Pan Ddaw'r Nos and Y Blodau ger y Drws. The Grade I listed Ewenny Priory acoustically and aesthetically provided the perfect backdrop.

As well as a long association with both Welsh and English National Opera companies and BBC Now, Gail currently teaches at the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama and at Cardiff University School Of Music.

Caradog, whose work in Cardiff has included being a tutor for Welsh National Opera, the Wales International Academy of Voice and the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama, has performed at the Royal Albert Hall, St David's Hall, Cardiff International Arena and the Brangwyn Hall.

The next Ewenny festival event, Verses and Vino with Robert Minhinnick and Kristan Evans, will be on Friday, October 17 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

This will be a Literature Wales supported event. Further information/ticket information available via www.ewennyfestival.co.uk and www.facebook.com/EwennyArtsFestival1.

Left to right: Junior reading group members Lucy Griffiths, Maisie Fashan, Anousha Cronje and Daisy Richards.

Francesca inspires new junior reading group at Porthcawl library

COME ALONG AND JOIN THE GROUP!

LEFT: Reading enthusiast and group initiator, Francesca Williams.

PORTHCAWL Library set up a teen reading group last year which proved so popular that a young girl, Francesca Williams, asked about having a junior reading group.

Her initiative paid off and a new reading group has been established for ages eight to 12 who share a mutual love for reading.

The group meets every second Friday of the month at 5pm in Porthcawl Library. The next meeting is on Friday, October 10.

MAKING WALES JUST A LITTLE BIT GREENER!

Porthcawl Lifeguards Club building.

PORTHCAWL lifeguard club is looking to raise £14,000 to fund a renewable energy project, making the club carbon neutral and saving over 100 tonnes of CO2.

A club spokesman said: "Installing a solar array will secure the lifeguard club for the next generation of lifesavers and ensure that it continues to be a fantastic local asset to the community

"The funding will be used for a 52 panel solar array, turning the club into a 'micro-generator' producing enough electricity to power everything!

"It could heat water, run the showers and give a regular income to cover the lifeguards' insurance, with enough left over to develop and expand the club's horizons. New equipment can be purchased and the membership expanded to continue to offer new opportunities for children and adults to develop their skills and lifesaving abilities.

"Momentum and forward planning has now reached a tipping point for the club, and we realise that we become self-sufficient, help the environment and leave a positive legacy for future generations. The club will become a 'green electricity powerhouse' entirely powered by the Welsh sun!

"The club's future can be secured with help from our friends in the local and global community, surfers, ocean-lovers and nature lovers everywhere.

"We need help to make this community energy project work with a donation – however small. Be a part of this exciting new community energy initiative with us and help make Wales a little bit greener."

If anybody is able to donate to this cause, or would like more information on the project, visit the fundraising website Fundrazr.com/campaigns/fpR7d. **AB**

Project's 'End bullying' message

The picture (right) was taken at last weekend's Elvis Festival in Porthcawl.

'BRIDGEND says End Bullying' is a Lottery funded anti-bullying project that is part of the Bridgend Youth Service, and last weekend members visited the Elvis Festival in Porthcawl to raise awareness of the project.

It works with young people across the county between the age of 11 and 25, talking about bullying issues in local schools, colleges and youth clubs and also working with young people who have been referred to the project, helping them improve their self-esteem and confidence.

For further information on the project or for any help or advice on bullying matters, contact the team on 01656 754920, by e-mail on bseb@bridgend.gov.uk or visit their Facebook page at www.facebook.com/bsebevents.

Town Mayor opens Porthcawl Art Society's autumn display

THE Mayor of Porthcawl opened the autumn exhibition of Porthcawl Art Society at the old police station in John's Street, Porthcawl. The winners of the competition were: First, Ron Evans – Horse Farrier; second, Ray John – Towards Kenfig; third, Clive Callen – Down River Looe. Most original, Robert Taylor – Sunset at the pier.

Call for free parking in the afternoon

SHADOW Regeneration Minister Byron Davies has backed a call from Bridgend traders for free parking in the afternoons.

Mr Davies, a Welsh Conservative regional AM for South Wales West, met BCBC chief executive Darren Mepham last Friday to discuss the matter.

He said: "I am concerned to read in the media that there has been an increase in the number of vacant shops in Bridgend town centre.

"Traders are saying that the town gets very quiet in the afternoons so if that is the case, allowing free parking in council-owned car parks should not cost the council that much.

"I know that income from car parks is important to the council's budget but I am afraid we are trapped in a downward spiral with numbers of shoppers going down, leading to a drop in car park usage and lower income in the long run.

"It's the law of diminishing returns in action. And the more the council increases charges, the less income it will get as people vote with their feet – or, in this case, their wheels.

"Councils everywhere must realise that parking fees are not the answer to their financial problems and that they are in danger of killing the goose that lays the golden egg.

"What BCBC needs to do is get people back into town. Simply staging events and festivals is not enough – shops need trade every day if they are to survive.

Mr Davies said that Bridgend was now in a chicken and egg situation. "What comes first, the shop or the customer?" he asked.

"The truth is that shoppers will not be attracted to Bridgend unless there is a range of shops they can visit but traders will not be attracted to take over the empty units unless they are certain that there will be enough business for them.

"The council needs to break this vicious circle and offering free parking in the afternoons could be what breaks the stalemate.

"If people start coming back because they can park for free, it will encourage new businesses to open up and they in turn will draw more people in."

Mr Davies said he had previously urged BCBC to scrap some of the pedestrianisation – along Queen Street, Dunraven Place and lower Market Street, in order to open up the town to some traffic, including disabled drivers.

PACT meetings

CEFN GLAS, LLANGEWYDD and BRYNHYFRYD PACT and NEWCASTLE PACT, at Westward Community Centre on October 13 at 6.30pm.

MORFA TOWN PACT, at Penybont Primary School, Minerva Street on October 13, at 6.30pm.

BRACKLA PACT, at Brackla Junior School, Brackla Way, Brackla, Bridgend on October 23 at 6.30pm.

FELINDRE, HENDRE, PENPRYSG (PENCOED) and COYCHURCH PACT, at Pencoed Buffs Club, Pencoed on October 30 at 7pm.

PORTHCAWL EAST CENTRAL PACT, at Porthcawl Fire Station, Porthcawl on October 21 at 7pm.

NEWTON PACT, at Newton School Rooms, Newton on October 28 at 6.30pm.

Funds for Macmillan

THE Bridgend County Civic Charity appeals committee held a coffee morning in the reception area of the Civic Offices, on September 24, in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support, their main charity this year, as part of the 'World's Biggest Coffee Morning'.

The collection made was £240.85 and all the cakes were home-made. A big thank you to all who contributed and helped on the morning and a special thank you to the staff and students from Heronsbridge School and Ysgol Bryn Castell who made delicious cake as their contribution to this special event.

The Mayor of the county borough of Bridgend, Coun Gary Thomas and consort were helping and encouraging the staff and public to support such a worthy cause.

The next event is on Sunday, October 5, when Canon Philip Masson will comperé the Voskresenije Vocal Ensemble from St Petersburg, Russia supported by Ieuenctid Aelwyd Porthcawl at 7.30pm at All Saints Church, Victoria Avenue, Porthcawl.

Tickets available from M Major, on 01656 664105, or at the door.

GEM LETTERS EXTRA

'Please keep voting for KPC youth!'

PLEASE help KPC Youth win a possible £3,000 grant from the Lloyds Community Grant scheme – to help us continue our open access evening youth provision to help the young people of our area!

There's loads of ways you can support us: You can vote on line; Tweet support #commfund CXC or Text 'VOTE CXC' to 61119.

If you're popping into one of the Lloyds Banks locally - Kenfig Hill, Port Talbot or Bridgend, you will be given a token to vote in their carousel! Spread the word to some of your contacts – we need all parents, friends, family, work colleagues to help us.

Every vote is really appreciated and may help us win this grant! Vote closes October 10: https://communityfund.lloydsbank.com/communityfund/cf_org_vote_profile.asp?cfr=98D7E4.

Alison Mawby, Bridgend.

'Help farm animals' the RSPCA urges

YOU may be surprised to know that more than 900 million animals are farmed for food each year in the UK – that's about 56 times the number of pet dogs and cats in this country.

Many of these farm animals are kept in conditions which the RSPCA thinks are unacceptable.

In fact, the RSPCA has been fighting for farm animals for 190 years. We were founded after witnessing cruelty to cattle at Smithfields meat market.

That is why this week is the RSPCA's Farm Animal Week (September 29 to October 5), we will be raising awareness of the cramped conditions in which millions of farm animals spend their lives.

But we can't do this alone! So please think animal welfare – especially now during Farm Animal Week.

For more information on activities in your area, and ways you can support the RSPCA's farm animal week, please go *to:www.rspca.org.uk/getinvolved/fundraise/faw*.

Dr Julia Wrathall, *RSPCA head of farm animal welfare, Southwater, RH13 9RS.*

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YOUR CHANCE TO SHARE THE COMMUNITY NEWS

NORTH BRIDGEND NEWS

A message for all readers in the north of Bridgend who would like to have items included in the community news columns of The GEM:
If you wish to submit reports on any social activity in this region, please contact me.
I am very approachable and will endeavour to include every newsworthy subject.

Contact details: CLIVE MITCHELL
1 Tyn-Y-Coed Close, Sarn, Bridgend CF32 9NQ
TEL: 01656 725399
email: tynycoed1@yahoo.co.uk

Penyfai WI

JEAN GRIFFITHS opened the recent meeting and welcomed the 58 members, with birthday greetings to those who celebrated this month.

She informed members that the craft class will be starting again, but will be relocating to Smyrna Chapel hall in Pen-y-Fai, not Tondu Wesley Methodist Chapel, on Friday at 2pm.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read out by Mavis Heck, secretary, and agreed as correct by the members.

Chris Philips said that at the last Glamorgan Federation meeting it was agreed that membership fees will be increased to £36 from January 2015.

The WI will again be supporting the Samaritans' Purse Christmas box appeal and boxes were issued to members.

There had also been an appeal from Heart Research UK for members to give their old unused jewellery, and freepost addressed envelopes were issued.

The speaker, Valerie Francis, was thanked for attending at such short notice as the original speaker had been unable to come through unforeseen circumstances.

Valerie had been an accompanist for a number of male voice choirs in the area, among them Kenfig Hill choir.

She had also been pianist at a concert in the Royal Albert Hall. Her memories of numerous tours she had taken part in were hilarious.

Jean Griffiths gave a vote of thanks. The raffle was won by De Vere Richards.

The next meeting will be at the C of E Pen-y-Fai Primary School on October 20. Helen Jones will give a talk on 'My Life in the Met.'

Toddlers' group

PARENTS or carers of young children in the Cefn Cribwr area, might be interested in taking their charges along to the new babies and toddlers group in the Green Hall (Community Centre) on Tuesdays from 12.30pm to 2.30pm.

The children can join in messy play, soft play or activity corner.

Parkinson's group

THIS social group meets on the second Wednesday of the month from 7pm to 9pm in Llys Swn Hall (the old general hospital building) Quarell Road.

The next meeting is on October 8 and the group has a speaker at every meeting. This time it will be Mr Karl, an archaeologist, who will be talking about the history of buildings in the area.

The members will also be discussing the Christmas entertainment requirements, which will include a meal in the Heronston Hotel restaurant and a party in the hall.

For more information, telephone 01656 720791.

Bridgend Male Choir

THE winners of the male voice section and finalists in the Choir of the World competition at the Llangollen international music eisteddfod, the choir has a busy few weeks in front of it.

On Friday, October 10 it is holding its annual concert in St Mary's Roman Catholic Church, Ewenny Road, Bridgend at 7pm. Guest soprano is Jessica Robinson.

Tickets are £5 from any chorister, the News Shop, Dunraven Place or Porters Estate Agents, Nolton Street.

On October 25, the choir will be travelling to 's-Hertogenbosch in the Netherlands to take part in the 70th anniversary celebrations of the liberation of the city by the 53rd Division Welsh Regiment.

Charity appeal

EACH year the Mayor of Bridgend County Borough holds a series of events to raise funds for the Mayor's nominated charities. This year the Mayor, Coun Gary Thomas, has nominated Macmillan cancer support, Bridgend Carers' Centre and the Friends of Bridgend Youth Music.

On Sunday, October 5 he is inviting members of the public to a concert with an international flavour in All Saints' Church, Victoria Avenue, Porthcawl. The compere will be Canon Philip Masson, Rector of the church, and entertainment is provided by Voskresenije vocal ensemble, from St Petersburg.

There will also be traditional Welsh songs sung by Ieuenctid Aelwyd Porthcawl.

Tickets are £10 and all money goes to the charities at the end of Gary's year in office as Mayor.

Church services

THERE is an interesting afternoon of entertainment at St John's Church, Aberkenfig, on Saturday, October 4, at 3.30pm, provided by the Porthcawl Ukulele Band, with an afternoon tea. Tickets are £4.

There will be harvest festival services throughout the parish of Llansantffraid, Betws and Aberkenfig on Sunday, October 5.

Choir's triumph

THE annual concert by Ogmore Valley Male Voice Choir at Canolfan Bethlehem Centre last Saturday evening was a resounding success, with a packed hall and the most difficult parking I have encountered at this venue. Among the guests were Huw Irranca-Davies MP and Janice Gregory AM.

The choir, under its energetic musical director Eira Paskin, accompanied by pianist Gareth Waite, started with the traditional Alwyn Humphreys arrangement of 'Calon Lan', then a new song, Carole King's 'You've Got a Friend' followed by 'Give Me That Old Time Religion'.

Guest soloist baritone Andrew Matthews, accompanied by Eira Paskin sang a Faust aria and in complete contrast, Kenneth Mc Kellar's 1960s hit 'Ye Banks and Braes'.

The choir then sang 'Nant y Mynydd' unaccompanied and 'Jamaica Farewell', accompanied by its fixture secretary Phil Davies on guitar.

Then we had the lovely soprano, Rhiannon Evans, the cancer support services manager with the charity Tenovus. Rhiannon, while living in London auditioned for D'Oyly Carte Operatic Society and the musical *Les Miserables,* had been accepted by both, but had to turn down the opportunities through circumstances.

Accompanied by Eira Paskin, Rhiannon sang a piece from *My Fair Lady:* 'I Could Have Danced All Night' and gave an outstanding rendition of Gershwin's 'Summer Time'.

The choir then sang two numbers from hit musicals, the first from *Jekyll and Hyde*. Soprano Catrin Eleri Jenkin joined the choristers and sang a solo part in 'Benedictus'.

At the start of the second half the choir sang the 'American Trilogy', 'Bring Him Home' with tenor Phil Davies singing a solo part, and 'Hafan Gobaith' the song that was written to raise funds for the Children's Hospice.

Catrin Eleri Jenkin, Gareth Waite and Eira Paskin in the foreground.

Rhiannon Evans was presented with a cheque to the value of £500 for the Tenovus cancer care charity. She then sang Shubert's 'Ave Maria' and a very theatrical version of 'Can't Help Loving That Man of Mine' from the musical *Showboat*.

The choir sang 'If We Only Have Love' then Aled Wyn Edwards' arrangement of 'Fy Mhlentyn'.

Andrew Matthews sang two songs from *Kismet* and *Carousel*.

The choir sang 'Rachie'; Catrin Eleri Jenkin sang a solo verse in 'Nos Da' and the choir ended with 'World in Union'. The audience then stood and sang the Welsh national anthem.

Gleemen concert

MAESTEG 'Gleemen' male voice choir will be holding their annual concert in Maesteg town hall on October 18 at 7pm, under its musical director Alun Hodges, accompanied by his wife Suzanne on the piano.

The choir rehearses in the British Legion Club, Commercial Street, Maesteg on Monday and Thursday evenings from 7pm to 8.30pm, and welcomes visitors and new members.

Class assembly

TONDU Primary School invites carers and friends of children in Miss Davies's class, Ogwr, to join the class assembly next Friday, October 10 at 10.20am.

Everyone will be welcome to stay afterwards. This will also be the day when the school is holding its Macmillan coffee morning.

The children from class Garw had the largest percentage of pupils who walked to school on the 'Walk to school day'. The class has been awarded the Golden Boot.

Choir secretary John Jones with baritone Andrew Matthews.

Choir invite

CÔR Maesteg a'r Cylch (Maesteg and district male choir) was invited to sing at a social evening last Friday, September 26, by Llangynwyd community centre managing committee, with the event co-ordinated by choir member Tal Harries.

The hall was full to capacity, with the audience appreciating the music of Rhian Jenkins on piano, and the choir conducted by Gerwyn Thomas.

The choir rehearses at Garth Celtic club on Thursday evenings from 7pm to 9pm.

New members are welcome.

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Normal competition rules apply. Judge's decision is final and no correspondence will be entered into. Closing date: 30th October 2014

School's coffee for Macmillan

ON Friday, September 26, mums at Oak Field Primary School gathered to raise funds for Macmillan Cancer Care.

The PTA helped organise a coffee morning where everyone was tempted by fantastic donations of home made cakes.

Mums and children enjoyed a chat while helping to raise money for this worthy cause.

The mums show off their baking wares!

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Pictured above are: Colin Smith, Chair of Piers Society; Dr David Trotman, Director of Penarth Arts and Crafts Ltd; Peter Andrews, Pier Master. Front: Tim Phillips of National Pier Society and Coun Lis Burnett.

Penarth picks up Pier of the Year award

THE National Piers Society has presented Penarth Pier with the Pier of the Year Award 2014, after the pier received more than twice the number of votes of its nearest rival, Cromer.

Professor Tony Hazell, chairman of Penarth Arts and Craft (PACL) representing the Pier Pavilion, and Tim Phillips, vice-chairman of the Piers Society, attended the presentation, along with Coun Lis Burnett, who accepted the award on behalf of the Vale Council.

Coun Burnett, cabinet member for regeneration, said it had been a very special year for the Pier: "Not only winning this fantastic award from the National Pier Society, but also being voted Wales' favourite special place in August 2014."

The recent 4 million pound regeneration of the Pier Pavilion by Penarth Arts and Crafts Ltd in partnership with the Vale of Glamorgan Council restored the art deco building to its former glory in December 2013.

Garden volunteers' efforts are praised

THE Older People's Commissioner for Wales has praised the efforts of volunteers who have transformed the garden of a social housing complex in Penarth.

The Commissioner's team visited Oak Court on Myrtle Road recently, where social landlord Wales and West Housing helps tenants to enhance and maintain the grounds.

A group of residents began the transformation by clearing the overgrown garden and cutting the lawn, before adding flower beds and growing produce, such as runner beans and tomatoes, in a greenhouse they erected.

The residents have now extended a patio area, which they use for barbecues and other social activities, while they also sell the produce they grow for 50p a bag, with the money used to buy plants for the following season.

The volunteers have also been shortlisted in the Sustainable Housing Awards under the Green Tenants of the Year category as a result of a number of environmentally-friendly initiatives, such as converting goldfish waste into plant fertiliser.

The Commissioner, Sarah Rochira, said: "The transformation of the garden, led by a small group of residents at Oak Court, has had a hugely positive impact on the lives of everyone who lives there and has helped to increase their health and wellbeing in many ways.

"As well as giving a sense of achievement and purpose for those involved in the project, their work has helped create a wonderful social area that older people can enjoy alone or through spending time with their friends."

CONSERVATION GROUP'S CALL FOR PARK VOLUNTEERS

THE White Farm Conservation Group will hold their AGM onSunday (October 5) at 11am in the home of local councillors, Rob and Claire Curtis, who will also be serving Fairtrade coffee and tea, followed by a litter pick at the local park.

Current members and those interested in joining are invited.

While the park was created by Persimmon house builders, the group has been busy creating a living memorial to the service men and women who never returned from the First World War at the entrance to Barry along Port Road East.

They have planted around 430 tree saplings and are about to plant a further 270 to reach their target of 700.

The group's main aim is to protect the biodiversity and history of the newly-created Merthyr Dyfan Lane/Whitewell Road open space by planting trees and shrubs, erecting nest boxes, litter picking, encouraging wild flowers and educating local residents of both the history of the St Teilo and St Dyfan ancient church, and the biodiversity that can be attracted to the park.

Chairman and co-ordinator Coun Rob Curtis said: "This area of the old White Farm was set aside as mitigation to protect the remaining biodiversity, due to the new housing being built on the rest of Whitefarm. It was created to allow native wildlife to have a home.

"The park is one of the largest to be created in Barry in recent years, but has yet to be handed over to the Vale Council so we are working with Persimmon to resolve any teething problems until it is.

"We now need local people to come forward as volunteers to protect this wonderful facility. Everyone is welcome to attend the AGM but please bring suitable footware for the litter pick after the meeting."

The vice chairman of WFCG, Coun Anthony Powell, added: "We need to be vigilant to ensure this beautiful circular walk does not become a dumping ground for fly tippers.

"Therefore, I would repeat the message from our chairman, and call on local people to become our eyes and ears and report any flytipping or vandalism to the local Police."

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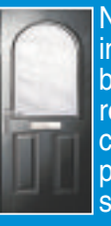
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Cardiff Airport is in the TV spotlight

A NEW series following life at Wales's international airport started last night (Wednesday) at 10.40pm on ITV Cymru Wales.

Narrated by Eddie Butler, the six-part series, which follows Cardiff Airport throughout 2014, gives viewers a behind the scenes insight.

Cameras have been given access to all areas of the business as staff work to ensure the airport remains open for 'business as usual' during the transformation of the terminal building and car parks.

Jonathan Hill, editor for English language programmes at ITV Cymru Wales, said: "This has been an extraordinary nine-month project as ITV cameras followed life at Cardiff Airport in perhaps the most crucial year in its history.

"The stakes couldn't be higher as a new management team set out to bring back the good times. We've received unprecedented co-operation from Cardiff Airport which has made for a fascinating series."

Brett Allen, producer of *The Airport*, said: "From the pilots and crew to the check-in staff and the baggage handlers, from the directors, managers and technicians, the series provides a unique glimpse into life and work at one of Wales' key businesses."

"Narrator Eddie Butler's distinctively wry style brings a combination of humour and observation that combines to make each episode compelling viewing."

Debra Barber, managing director at Cardiff Airport, added: "The year 2014 has been an exciting yet challenging year for Cardiff Airport.

"The series has given us the opportunity to take everyone on the journey with us. By filming the airport team throughout the year, viewers can see the full array of work undertaken on route development, the terminal, customer service and marketing.

"No stone has been left unturned as we work to give Wales an airport to be proud of once again."

Vote for the Vale Youth Mayor!

YOUNG people will have their own election campaign next month for the first Youth Mayor in the Vale.

Between October 13-17, schools, youth clubs and youth organisations from both the statutory and voluntary sector will have the opportunity to vote.

Last year's Local Democracy Week focused on increasing membership to the Vale Youth Forum, a group aged 11-25, who meet regularly to ensure young people have a voice on matters that affect them in the Vale, which led to the election of the Youth Cabinet.

"Building on that success, the next step involves electing a Youth Mayor which will further increase the links between young people and the decision makers in the Vale," said Coun Chris Elmore, cabinet member for children's services.

"This is the climax to over two years hard work by young people, the youth service and the Vale Youth Forum in developing a plan to ensure young people have a real voice and say on matters which not only affect them, but on services across the Vale of Glamorgan.

"Good luck to everyone who is standing to become Youth Mayor and I look forward to working with them in their new role once elected," he added.

MARKS & SPENCER STORE UNVEILS MAJOR MAKEOVER

Local Marks & Spencer staff will be welcoming the public to new look store.

MARKS & SPENCER has unveiled a major makeover at its extended Culverhouse Cross store, providing customers with more shopping options across home, food and fashion.

The store has been transformed to offer customers 5,000 sq ft of interiors inspiration, showcasing the largest M&S home range in south Wales, plus a new 220-seat café with its own outdoor seating area.

The store manager, Allison Jenkins, said: "We've been so excited about the planned changes for our store and are pleased to finally be welcoming customers to see our new look.

"Our customers have been really positive about the redevelopment and couldn't wait to have access to our brand new 'home section'.

"The additions to the food hall and the extension of the café are already proving a hit. It's really wonderful to see so many of our customers already enjoying the new features."

Final countdown at St Donats!

THE final countdown has begun following the Stage Door 1 dress rehearsal of Jesus Christ Superstar at St Donats Art Centre.

Tickets are available on 01446 799100 or www.stdonats.com.

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It's been a crazy few months for Cloudy2Clear Windows. The company which specialises in repairing windows which are steamed up, broken or damaged by replacing the panes – not the frames has grown rapidly as homeowners take advantage of their services.

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Cloudy2Clear service the Vale, Bridgend, RCT and Porthcawl areas and Phil is finding that his approach is a major factor in his success. *'The truth is that it's not just the personal satisfaction that I get from doing a good job but also it makes good business sense. I get a huge amount of business from friends and family of people I've done work for, which just goes to show how much a little bit of effort is appreciated.'*

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Llangeinor concert boosts target for PoW glaucoma unit

A SUCCESSFUL evening of musical entertainment was held recently at the Richard Price Community Centre, Llangeinor.

Coun George Davies and Friends are working hard to purchase a special instrument – the TA01iCare Tonometer – for the glaucoma unit at the Princess of Wales Hospital, Bridgend.

The consultant opthalmologist, Mr Rajkumar, attended the concert with some colleagues and explained how important this gift will be to his work and patients of all ages.

The comperé was Janice Gregory AM. Bois Goetre-Hen a'r Cylch Choir was formed in August 2009. Members come from all over the county borough of Bridgend and surrounding areas and from all walks of life.

The age range is from teenagers to octogenarians and the diversity is reflected in their repertoire – from Calon Lan to Coldplay!

They delight in making music and are pleased to help maintain the great Welsh tradition of Male Choral singing with a modern twist.

Musical director Dale Evans and accompanist: Bethan Edwards have given the choir a reputation for excellence which showed in the concert.

Other performers who took part were The Two of Us. Cedric and Pat have given their services to many charitable functions over the last 20 years including Macmillan Cancer Care.

They instigated songs such as 'Colour of the Wind' recorded by Mike Doyle, which has raised over £30,000 for a charity for blind children. Cedric has sung for over 50 years on cruise liners in Australia and USA and sung with Pat for over 20 years at many charity concerts.

Soloist Jacob Lloyd Lewis has achieved Grade 7 in singing through the London College of Music and is a student at Cardiff University. Jacob is the son of a famous Wales rugby international player—Emyr Lewis.

Unfortunately, Ahnuh Valentine was unable to perform due to illness.

The evening raised £332, added to money already collected. Hopefully, the instrument will be at the glaucoma unit at Princess of Wales Hospital by Christmas. A big thank you to everyone for support.

Mari Major

Bake-off success

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

Kath continued: "Everyone enjoyed the day and the achievement of contributing to a good cause boosted everyone's self-esteem.

One of the residents said: "Organising the event was fun because of the good cause it was for. I enjoyed taking photos and making my mum proud.

"It was nice to see the different cakes and the staff and residents pulling together.

"I am very proud and surprised by the amount of money we raised."

COMMUNITY NEWS

Your local correspondent is
NANCY DAVIDGE
"Tynewydd", Llangan.
(01656) 860303
TREOES, LLANGAN & ST MARY HILL

Llangan school

BETWEEN September 22 and 26, pupils and parents at Llangan school enjoyed a puzzle week, with puzzles from Cardiff-based Techniquest and the Happy Puzzle Company.

Llangan School hosted a maths challenge for 10 other primary schools in the Vale. The competition will run throughout the year with a different school hosting each time.

Harvest festival

THIS year's St Canna's harvest festival service was very well attended, with local parishioners and visitors from further afield. Needy people in the Bridgend area will benefit from the generosity of those who attended the service with gifts of food allocated to the Bridgend Foodbank.

Yoga classes

FROM Monday, October 6, Treoes village hall will be the venue for all standards of yoga classes, from 7.45pm to 9pm. The cost is £4 a session or £30 for 10 lessons. Remember to take your yoga mat.

Solar farm meeting

RESIDENTS in the Treoes area will get the chance to quiz the people behind an application for the proposed solar farm on Court farm.

The meeting will take place at Treoes Village Hall at 7pm on Thursday, October 9.

The draft proposals at Court Farm involve the installation of around 10,000 solar panels on metal frames laid out in parallel rows. The solar farm is expected to have a generating capacity of around 2 MW.

A planning application is expected to be submitted in October. If successful, planning permission is likely to be granted for a 25-year period.

The developers are Sunance, a German company with an office in Bristol. CDN Planning are a planning consultancy based in Swansea.

Seafront parking charges

SHADOW Welsh Tourism Minister Suzy Davies AM has welcomed a new consultation currently under way with 1,000 businesses and residents in Porthcawl about whether or not car parking charges should be introduced along the seafront.

Mrs Davies said that the council had to take on board the views of local traders and tourism operators, as well as residents before finalising its proposals.

"There are arguments in favour of charging, because long term parking currently takes place along the seafront with cars left all day, preventing visitors and others from parking. Bringing in modest charges may make people think more carefully about where they park.

"But there are also very strong arguments against because of the effect charging would have on local businesses and also the knock-on effect on residents living in the streets leading off the front. They fear that their street will become choked with cars as motorists seek to avoid the new charges and that's a very valid worry.

"Initially when this was first proposed, the council said it would offer a free half hour on the street and in the Mary Street car park. Half an hour is not really long enough for visitors to get a coffee or ice cream or pop into local shops.

"The council could be more generous here, otherwise there will be a detrimental effect on cafes and shops if people are deterred from visiting Porthcawl. And that's the last thing that's needed now.

"The council also needs to invest money in the Hillsboro Place car park now that the regeneration is stalled. Porthcawl needs a good quality car park to accommodate all-day users as well as visitors and shoppers.

"The surface there is disgraceful and must be redone if people are to be encouraged to visit Porthcawl."

A message from Mitts!

"HELLO, my name is Mitts. I am one of the longest staying cats currently in the Adoption Centre so my adoption fee has been waived to try to get my homed ASAP.

"adly, I found myself here at the centre when my owner became too unwell to care for me any longer. I am now hoping to find my new forever home, where I can be the one and only pet. Please come and say hello! "

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Mayor and AMs support Cowbridge Farmers' Market

PHOTOGRAPHS by
MIKE WILCOCK

THE Mayor of Cowbridge with Llanblethian, Coun Peter Knapp, spoke out recently about the benefits that the Farmers' Market brings to the town – and issued an appeal for local people to support it.

Also visiting the market in Cowbridge were Vale AM Jane Hutt, and Welsh Conservative Leader, Andrew RT Davies AM.

Coun Knapp told The GEM: "The farmers' market is one of the things that help make the town special.

"It is a chance for the public to deal directly with the producers, and I believe it makes a difference to the town." He continued: "The extra events that take place in the town all help make it distinctive. For instance, the Cowbridge Music Festival finished recently, and that was a huge success.

"It would be a shame if we were to lose the farmers' market.

"I'm not convinced that everyone in the area knows about it, as I have met a few people who did not know where it was taking place!"

The Farmers' Market takes place fortnightly in Cowbridge, in Arthur John car park, North Road. The next market is this Saturday, October 4.

It also takes place monthly in Penarth in Westbourne School, on the fourth Saturday of the month.

Local Cadets at 'amazing' RAF Cosford airshow

AIR CADETS from 372 (Barry) Squadron, recently travelled to Royal Air Force Cosford to see one of the premier military air shows in the United Kingdom.

Few events can rival the intensity, drama and spectacle on offer at one of these displays. The Air Tattoo not only includes thrilling flying action from air forces around the world, but the Cadets were also treated to non-stop entertainment on the ground with many interactive displays.

The Cadets saw many impressive flying displays, including the RAF aerobatic team, the Red Arrows; the Battle of Britain Memorial Flight – Spitfire, Hurricane and Lancaster, Typhoon, Avro Vulcan, Canberra PR9, Breitling Wing Walkers, Pitts Special and the RAF Falcons parachute display team; as well as many displays on the ground.

Cadet Arron Shires said: "The flying displays were really cool. My favourite display was seeing the Red Arrows flying so fast and close together. The hole day was amazing."

The Cadets were: Alex Cheeseley, Pippa Cowles, Rhys Lewis, Jake Paterson, Jacob Petre, Ellie Poulakis, Georgina Poulakis, Nathan Thompson, Rhys Williams and Arron Shires.

372 (Barry) Squadron have vacancies for boys and girls between 12-18 years old. The Squadron parade on Mondays and Wednesdays 7pm–9.30pm behind Adams Funeral Parlour (by the Memorial Hall) or you can phone the Squadron on 01446 747734, email oc.372@aircadets.org or visit www.372squadron.org for more information.

Another award for Vale's Maria

SOUTH Wales born Maria Leijerstam has this week received the Honorary Sporting Colours award from the University of Plymouth. This award is to mark her dedication to sport and her inspiration to individuals around the world to follow their dreams and live a life of adventure.

Maria, who runs the events and training company Multisport Wales, became a Guinness Book of Records holder earlier in the year as the first person in the world to cycle to the South Pole.

Maria was also awarded the South Wales Business Award, for her contribution to Business and Society earlier in September.

Man's quest to find grandfather who found sanctuary in Wales

A young Serbian man is appealing to the people of south Wales to help him find out what happened to his long lost grandfather who fled a civil war.

The family are certain Danilo Ljubenko lived for a number of years in Pontypridd – and may have died in 1985 – but can't be sure of his true fate.

His grandson Slobodan Erdeljan (24) got in touch with The Glamorgan GEM in the hope that a reader may remember Danilo and shed some light on a mystery that has haunted the family for decades.

From his home in Belgrade, Slobodan has begun a search for information which he hopes will assemble the jigsaw of Danilo's life in Britain.

"My grandfather escaped to London from Belgrade when World War Two started and after that the family lost contact with him.

"The family received a letter, and the address on the envelope referred to a street in south Wales – in Pontypridd."

The handwritten address in blue ink read: 12 Howell Street, Cylfynydd, Nr Pontypridd, Glam.

Slobodan said: " I searched on Ancestry.co.uk. and discovered that a person named Danilo Ljubenko died in Glamorgan in 1985.

"Perhaps The GEM and people in south Wales could help to find out if he is alive. It not, he must have some family there and they might have some information. It would mean a lot to me, and my family."

by TIM CHAPMAN

Danilo Ljubenko was born on September 12, 1924, in Orašje, which is in the north east of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Slobodan explained: "Back then – and until 1929 – it was called the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats and Slovenes. Then the name was changed to Kingdom of Yugoslavia. Although Orašje is in today's Bosnia and Herzegovina, Danilo was Serb by nationality."

Slobodan said his grandfather's sudden departure and the silence that followed it caused the family great anguish.

"My parents, but especially my grandmother, always wondered what happened to him. The thing is we've always been quite a modest family so we were never in a position to investigate or research what became of him, and where he might be.

"He escaped from Belgrade at the time of the Second World War.

"The reason was possibly because during that period, in the former Yugoslavia, there were two sides: chetniks, who were for the king, and partizans, the communists.

"My grandfather was for the king, and since at the time it wasn't safe, he escaped, and they were doing many things that he did not want to be a part of.

"His departure was quite sudden. He was working in a small workshop, and my grandmother was working in a factory. Danilo went in to say goodbye to my grandmother, hugged her, and didn't say much – just that he had to leave. She was crying – she cries every time she tells the story.

"Then he borrowed a horse and cart from his boss and headed for the border. When he got there he paid a guy to take it all the way back.

"I don't think he stayed too long in London. The oldest letter that we have was sent from Wales in 1960.

"In letters he mentioned moving to another apartment and seriously injuring a finger which meant that he wasn't able to work for three weeks."

Slobodan dreams of visiting Wales one day to see where his grandfather lived but financial considerations mean he is unable to.

Recently, Slobodan re-read Danilo's letters from the far-off country of Wales to his grandmother.

"She started crying. I hadn't told her that I had found them. He mentioned my mother in the letters a few times, and asks how she is. He had seen a picture of my mother and said she was beautiful, 'like a film star'."

Slobodan now wonders whether he has Welsh relatives.

If anyone has any answers to the mystery of what happened to Danilo Ljubenko, email gemeditorial@tindlenews.co.uk; or ring 01446 774484 and ask for Tim or Phil.

Slobodan is hoping GEM readers can help in his quest to find out what happened to his grandfather.

ABOVE: Danilo Ljubenko.

The envelope sent from Pontypridd.

Fantastic time at messy Harvest

I'M writing to thank Rev Melanie Prince and her team of helpers at St Peters Church, Rhoose for putting on a fantastic 'Messy Harvest' for the children of the parish on Sunday.

There was so much to do, ranging from bread making, to creating scarecrows, to finger painting and decorating ginger bread men and cottages.

The activities were suitable for children of all ages and were really well thought out. The short service with singing and action songs for the children was thought provoking.

It was wonderful to see the children joining in and having so much fun. My son certainly had a great time!

Abi and Hector Biddle, Rhoose Point.

It's late September, the kids are back in school – and Elvis is back in Porthcawl

WHAT more can you say about Porthcawl's Elvis Festival?

It's a firm fixture in the calendar, and a date for late September next year has already been set.

The event, which gives a most welcome late season financial shot in the arm to the town's traders, was by common consensus the busiest yet.

For more on the festival, see facing page.

PHOTOGRAPHS by GLYN EVANS

OTHER PICTURES ARE AVAILABLE FROM THIS EVENT.

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An ETA (Elvis Tribute Artist) in full flow on the stage at the Grand Pavilion.

Apprentices design recycled 'bug hotel' for a local school...

ABOVE: The apprentices (left to right) Giovanni Raffaelli, Jamie Sugden, Ben Mackenzie and Dan Ladner) at Dow Corning Ltd. Photograph by Catherine Lewis.

THE Wildlife Trust of South and West Wales manages Cadoxton Ponds nature reserve, a 35-acre site adjacent to Dow Corning's manufacturing areas, including an education building suitable for school and group educational visits.

Apprentices at Dow Corning have developed a 'bug hotel' for a local school, after Catherine Lewis, education officer at Cadoxton Ponds, asked for their help.They designed a small mammal and bug hotel, building the frame work from recycled materials.

This will be taken to a local school for final assembly in their own wildlife garden. The children will then provide the finishing touches filling the gaps with lots of wildlife friendly material for creatures to shelter and live in.

Spokeswoman Catherine Lewis commented: "The apprentices at Dow Corning have shown that wildlife and industry can coexist side by side. Thanks to them, garden wildlife around the Barry area will be benefiting from their new five-star luxury winter accommodation.

"We're very grateful to The Co-operative who continue to support our work with communities to teach them about the importance of nature."

"Right from agreeing a design, through to scavenging for the materials and then the final build stage, the apprentices had to work as a team to get things completed. They had to overcome challenges as they went along, and all said what a worthwhile and enjoyable exercise it was.

"They are looking forward to delivering the bug hotel to the school to see the children putting on the finishing touches."

THE ELVIS FESTIVAL KEEPS ON GETTING BIGGER AND BIGGER!

Co-writers Nancy Medina and Peter Phillips.

ABOVE (left to right): The cast of 'Et tu Elvie', Karl Wilson, Kate Mayne (still wearing her Priscilla wig), Amy Barnes and Peter Baker.

PORTHCAWL'S Elvis Festival enjoyed fine weather last weekend, and local traders took advantage of record crowds at the event!

Organiser Peter Phillips told The GEM that he was delighted with the scale of the festival, which now has a 'fringe' including around 10 local venues.

Events at the Grand Pavilion were, as usual, sold out, while at festival sponsor, the Hi-Tide Inn, massive crowds were there all weekend enjoying the fun.

Mr Phillips revealed to The GEM that the deputy mayor of Varazdin, a town in Croatia, was spending the weekend in Porthcawl, because the town was interested in staging its own Elvis Festival.

Just like the Hay Festival, which now has off-shoots in Spain, India and elsewhere, the Porthcawl Elvis festival is spreading!

For locals, of course, there is an element of 'same as last year' for the festival, so this year it was good to see an unusual curtain raiser, staged on Friday at the Grand Pavilion.

The Welsh premiere of *Et tu Elvie* – the life of Elvis retold in a series of scenes from Shakespeare – deserved a bigger audience, because the four actors charged with bringing the story to life all did a tremendous job.

The four, Karl Wilson, Peter Baker, Amy Barnes and Kate Mayne, together with director Nancy Medina, are all training at the Bristol Old Vic, and all have a future in the theatre.

Add to that the fact that the show had played for two weeks at the Edinburgh Festival, and it meant that the audience were treated to a professional and imaginative show.

Peter Baker played the young, innocent Elvis, while Karl Wilson played Elvis in the various stages of his career, and I doubt if any of the tribute artists in Porthcawl for the weekend could have bettered him! Starting with Amy and Kate as the two witches from Macbeth – prophesying fame and fortune for the young Elvis – but at a price, the show moved through various Shakespearian scenes.

Amy appeared later as Titania from *Midsummer Night's Dream*, reimagined as a hippy drug pusher introducing Elvis to pills. Amy also got a huge round of applause for her impersonation of Ann Margaret, as the show charted the breakup of his marriage to teenage sweetheart Priscilla.

'Suspicious Minds' – of course – was the song to go with this section.

The end, when the dying Elvis was joined by the young Elvis to sing 'Love Me Tender', was really quite moving – and the audience reaction told its own story.

The cast were constantly fielding compliments as they left the building!

The script, co-written by Peter Phillips and Nancy Medina, definitely has potential, and it would be a shame if this were the last performance.

Philip Irwin

GEM ADVERTISEMENT FEATURE

In Business Update

GOVERNOR E-LEARNING TOOL NOMINATED FOR TOP NATIONAL AWARDS

THE FFT Governor e-learning tool has been nominated for two national awards – a Fresh Award and an E-learning Award – highlighting the importance of providing support to governors when analysing school data.

The e-learning tool was developed by FFT and iFlourish to support the use and understanding of the FFT governor dashboard – a four page report to help governors evaluate their school's performance more effectively.

Both the dashboard and the e-learning tool have proved a major success with over 15,000 schools using the dashboard to analyse their school's performance and more than 2,000 governors completing the e-learning modules to use data more effectively.

The governor e-learning tool, with its step-by-step interactive approach incorporating video, audio and animation, has helped governors to maximise the use of the governor dashboard to support and challenge their school.

Eighteen months on from when independent not-for-profit educational analysts FFT launched the governor dashboard, governors have become increasingly confident in the way they use data, with many using it as a point of reference when speaking to Ofsted inspectors.

The e-learning tool for Governors can be found at www.fft.org.uk.

fft

We are currently recruiting for a Support Officer to join our team in Cowbridge.

Please visit www.fft.org.uk

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QUIT THAT UNWANTED HABIT IN STOPTOBER!!

FOR the past few years, October has become 'Stoptober', giving us a second chance to make a new resolution to change.

Have you been thinking about quitting smoking; reducing or eliminating alcohol from your life, or stopping any unwanted habits?

Sometimes when we set ourselves a challenge to quit a habit, it can feel as if a part of us is trying to sabotage our efforts, rather like an internal tug of war. If you've made the decision to stop and need to quieten the nagging doubts to give yourself a chance, consider the powerful techniques of Solution Focus Hypnotherapy with Sue Pitman.

She has three clinics: near Cowbridge, Barry and Cardiff; free initial consultation tailored to suit you; free CD to listen to between sessions. Don't delay: take your first step forward and never look back.

Contact Sue on 07795 964066/029 20654893 or cardiffhypnotherapysolutions@gmail.com.

IT'S STOPTOBER!

Make this one your last...

Local Hypnotherapist Sue Pitman HPD,DHPMNCH(Reg) is offering £25 off a smoking cessation session booked during October including free back up CD.

Visit www.cardiffhypnotherapysolutions.co.uk or call Sue Pitman on 02920 654893 or 07795 964066

Clinics at Llandow near Cowbridge, Barry & Cardiff

Winter gas safety tips

WITH the cold weather setting in, many households will be relying on gas appliances to keep their family warm this winter.

This increased usage can put pressure on gas appliances and could lead to them breaking down. It's vital that everyone has their gas appliances serviced every year to prepare them for the cold winter months.

Stay safe and don't be left out in the cold this winter!

Did you know?

Having your gas appliances serviced every year will help keep them working safely and efficiently.

Badly fitted and poorly serviced gas appliances can produce deadly carbon monoxide.

A survey of gas engineers showed that most problems with gas appliances are caused by lack of annual servicing.

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After the party, think of recycling

THE party season is around the corner – from Hallowe'en, Bonfire Night, Christmas and New Year events, it's a busy time of year!

The Vale of Glamorgan Council's cabinet Member for the environment and visible services, Coun Rob Curtis said: " The Vale's resort manager at Barry Island, Graham Hatter, shows how easy it is to reuse. Whether you are having a picnic on the beach during the summer or planning a winter event, please reuse items.

"Plastic crockery, drinks containers, serving platters and cutlery are items you can wash and use again and again – ideal if you are entertaining."

Think of other items you can reuse. If you know someone who is a keen gardener, they might be glad of old carpet to keep frost at bay or CDs to scare birds from juicy summer fruits. It's best to reuse where possible, before recycling."

GEM ADVERTISEMENT FEATURE

In Business Update

Fashion and fascinators...

SAMANTHA B is in Ewenny, and is often referred to as the village's best-kept secret!

Sam and Suzanne are full of enthusiasm, are always ready to help, and offer a fabulous selection of co-ordinated separates, including labels such as Poppy and Emreco.

Sam took over the shop, formerly known as Nightingales, four years ago, and has got to know her customers extremely well, and buys with them in mind.

Other labels stocked include Marble, Ardini, Brandtex and Casamia, and this season Sam has introduced some exciting new labels – Oscar B, Signature, and Olsen!

Samantha B also stocks necklaces, scarves and bespoke fascinators.

Call in and tell Sam and Suzanne how you heard of them and receive a 10 per cent discount! They are open Monday to Saturday, 10am–5pm (telephone 01656 658388).

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Samantha B is delighted to announce that olsen is back in town!
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Our staff have been winners or finalists of Care Forum Wales Awards nearly every year since its inception in 2000

Fun Foundations spreads its wings!

DUE to popular demand, Fun Foundations Day Nursery are in the process of varying their registration with the Care and Social Services in Wales from 15 spaces for the under-two age group to 21 places.

The increase in space will include exclusive Messy Play areas, for both toddler and baby groups. This will allow them to explore and be creative in specifically designed spaces to promote sensory and physical development.

There is currently a waiting list for spaces for the under-two age range. This expansion (due to be implemented on November 1) will enable Fun Foundations to extend its services to more parents searching for quality childcare!

www.funfoundationsdaynursery.co.uk
10% discount for each additional sibling registered. Childcare vouchers accepted.
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Tel. 01446 771117
Wales Pre-school Providers Association
Fun Foundations Day Nursery

Barry Hub chief is earmarked for social enterprise award

ANTHEA CLEMENTS, chief executive officer at YMCA Barry Hub, is one of only two shortlisted nominations from south Wales for this year's Wales Social Enterprise Awards 2014, being held in Llanrwst.

Anthea Clements.

She is shortlisted to the final three in the social enterprise champion category in recognition of her contribution to social enterprises, locally and further afield.

Coun Lis Burnett, in her nomination of Anthea, said: "Anthea is enterprising and as objective in her decision making as any mainstream business, but the way in which her work demonstrates her values and passion for her community and every individual within it are what makes her a true champion".

Starting off with a small, run-down, building, Anthea transformed it into the vibrant centre of activity it is today. First she repaired it and then more than doubled its size, all the time involving the community to ensure that their needs were paramount.

With her at the helm 'The Hub' has provided incubator space for many small social enterprises, a home for community organisations, a centre for delivering local authority services and a base for the highly successful gym club that provided 50 per cent of the Welsh men's Commonwealth Games team at Glasgow 2014.

She has helped and encouraged voluntary sector organisations to move away from reliance upon grant funding and grasp the opportunities to achieve sustainability offered by mixed resource streams.

Self-effacing and modest, Anthea is the person behind successful local social enterprises, coaching, mentoring and offering hands-on support to help them develop the skills and expertise to create sustainable enterprises.

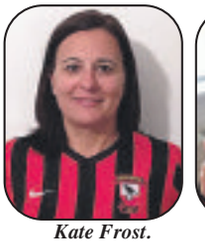
Two such organisations are Bro Radio and Digital Media Enterprise (DME), both based at The Hub and both providing valuable services that help develop community cohesion in the town and wider Vale.

Anthea is a guiding light which others in the community can learn and take encouragement from.

Dinas Wolves mums show support – and star in the club calendar!

Lara Sargent.

Natalie Williams.



Kate Frost.

Dina.

Jo Hewitson.

Emma Mallam.

Karen

THE mums at Dinas Powys Wolves decided that they would like to show their support for their sons by posing in the kit and doing a calendar!

A club spokesman said: "The mums were very grateful to Confused.com for the sponsorship and the coaches decided that the photos would be used in a calender that will be available at Christmas."

Mum Kate Frost said: "My son has been with Dinas for a number of years and we are a family club supporting the lads each week. Doing the calendar is a bit of fun and hopefully the boys will have a giggle."

Lara Sargent explained: "It's a great little team and we want to thank Confused.com for their sponsorship."

Another mum, Natalie Williams added: "My son hasn't played for a few years but joined last season and is loving his football. The mums are all keen to show their support."

Other supportive mums, (but not shown) are Manda Fifield and Cate Morris.

'Site views are taken seriously'

IN reply to a letter from Mr Rob Taylor in The GEM last week about the Sully Travellers' site, although it is difficult to respond to all the individual calls, the following points were made:

Many are disappointed that the Labour-led Vale Council haven't highlighted this matter earlier and brought it to their attention.

Many are also against the permanent siting, while others have no problem with this issue, as the site is remote from Barry.

I can, therefore, assure Mr Taylor that I do take his views seriously, as I do the others; but it is just a real pity that the Vale Council have now closed the public consultation on this matter.

Coun Richard Bertin, Independent, Vale of Glamorgan Council.

Out and About with The GEM

WHAT'S ON IN AND AROUND YOUR AREA?

Age Cymru's 'Positive Week'

THIS week is Age Positive Week – Age Cymru's national celebration of the contribution older people make to our communities.

It includes an older people's eisteddfod; a creative writing workshop; a 50 plus line dancing event and an older people's 'Question Time' event in Cardiff.

Contact www.agecymru.org.uk/agepositive or 029 20431555 for further information.

Charity trek

FUNDRAISERS at Marie Curie Hospice in Penarth invite anyone interested in a "fantastic trek to Costa Rica in April 2016" to a social evening on Thursday, October 2 at Terra Nova in Cardiff Bay, from 5.30pm.

To find out more about the trek visit www.mariecurie.org.uk/costarica or gtelephone 02920 426068.

Cowbridge Choral Society concert

THE St Illtyd's Church in Llantwit Major is the venue for the 'Falling Leaves' concert by the Cowbridge Choral Society at 7.30pm on Saturday, October 4.

The choir will be conducted by Carole Lloyd, director of music and accompanied by Geoff Howells with a programme of some well known classical pieces as well as popular songs from the early 20th century, and there will be guest performances.

Tickets are available from Davies newsagent in Cowbridge, or the box office on 01446 792175.

The society rehearses every Thursday at 7.30pm in the United Free Church, Westgate Street (opposite the Police Station). All are welcome.

Councillors' surgery

THE Llantwit First Independents will be holding a surgery at the Heritage Centre, Town Hall, Llantwit Major on Saturday, October 4 from 9.30am until 11.30am (please note change of venue). Residents who have any issue to raise are welcome to attend.

Vale AM's surgery

VALE AM, Jane Hutt ,will be holding a surgery on October 4, from 10am to 12 noon at Barry CAB office, 119 Broad Street.

Sci-Fi weekend at Llancarfan

LLANCARFAN Community Cinema is hosting a weekend of Sci-Fi films as part of a major nationwide season led by the British Film Institute in partnership with Film Hub Wales.

It opens on Friday, October 17 with *Edge of Tomorrow* (2014, 12A), starring Tom Cruise and Emily Blunt, preceded by a big screen exhibition of galactic photographs.

This is followed on October 18 by a family matinee performance of cult favourite *Flash Gordon* (1980, PG), with music by Queen. All profit from the performance goes to the Llancarfan Primary School PTA, and the film will be accompanied by sci-fi themed fun and games.

The season ends later that day with a performance of Ridley Scott's *Alien* (1979, 18), in a warm-up for Hallowe'en.

Full details are available on the cinema web site: www.llancarfancinema.co.uk.

Vale historian supports *'Read On, Get On'*

CHILDREN'S author, poet, historian and editor Phil Carradice, from St Athan is among Welsh literary figures supporting a UK-wide reading campaign to get all 11-year-olds reading well by 2025.

The coalition called 'Read On, Get On' (Darllena.Datblyga) includes leading charities, organisations and teachers and sets out to galvanise everyone to play their part in getting children reading well.

A simple act such as reading to a child for just ten minutes a day can help make this happen.

Every year, 'four in ten (40 per cent) of 11 year olds in Wales have reading ages below their chronological age' (Estyn 2010-11 report).

The recently published Welsh Government national literacy results also showed that children living in disadvantaged areas did less well with their reading than those in more affluent areas.

Phil Carradice, who has published over 45 fiction and historical titles, has supported the Read On, Get On campaign by writing a poem called 'Medussa' with the help of his five-year-old grandson. The poem can be read and enjoyed on *www.readongeton.org.uk*

ENTERTAINMENT

OCEAN LOUNGE
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£25 GEM FACEBOOK PRIZE

Our GEM Facebook winner for September 18, 2014 is:
LANA RAY-PARSONS
who correctly answered last week's question in The GEM.

Our lucky winning reader, chosen at random wins a £25 prize voucher to spend with any advertiser in last week's GEM.

The competition runs every week throughout 2014 with a potential prize fund of £1,150.

Congratulations to Lana!

REMEMBER TO LIKE US AND SHARE ON FACEBOOK:
facebook.com/glamorgangem

Councillors' surgery

DYFAN Ward councillors Anthony Powell and Claire Curtis will be holding their monthly advice surgery in Buttrills Community Centre, North Walk, Barry on Saturday, October 4 from 11am to 12pm and no appointment is necessary.

Art courses at old library

CREATIVE writing, life drawing and watercolour classes are available at a new arts and culture hub based in Bridgend's old town library.

BCBC and Bridgend Town Council are promoting the courses run by Bridgend Adult Community Learning (ACL) at Carnegie House, Wyndham Street.

On Saturday, October 4, local artist Bryan Shambler will hold a watercolour class for beginners and new starters with the theme 'Autumn Landscape.'

Enfys craft fair

ON Saturday, October 4 Enfys will be holding the first of three craft fairs running up to Christmas at St Ffransis Millennium Hall, Park Road, Barry between 10am and 4pm.

The charity for the October craft fair will be Motor Neurone Disease; West End Cakes will raffle a decorated cake to boost the MND fund.

Contact Beryl on 01446 418695, or Cyril on 01446 400149 for details.

Clothing sale

A PRE-loved clothing sale in aid of Breast Cancer Care will be held at Cowbridge Lesser Hall, on Saturday October 4, between 10am – 12pm. Clothing bargains for all the family.

Table top sale

THERE will be a table top fundraising sale at Peterston Super Ely Church and Community Hall on Saturday, October 4 between 10am and 2pm.

Sixth form pupils from the Bishop of Llandaff High School are holding the event to support an expedition next year to an Indonesian rain forest.

This is arranged through Operation Wallacea, an organisation set up by academics from north American and European universities who design and implement biodiversity and conservation management projects. Students collect data from remote areas used in the research.

The sale will include a variety of goods including arts and craft items, cake stalls, bric-a-brac and nearly new clothes. There will be refreshments and a chance to find out about this worthwhile project.

Vintage show

VINTAGE/classic car and bike meet, last Saturday of every month at the Fawlty Tower Cafe, Llandow Trading Estate; telephone 01446 793631 for details.

Ystradowen service

THE St Owain's Church, Ystradowen is holding its harvest service at 11am on Sunday, October 5 to include Sunday Club for primary school children.

St Owain's supports the local foodbank during Advent, Lent and Harvest and non-perishable food may be left in the church prior to Wednesday, October 8 for the harvest contribution.

Free advice

IF you are living independently at home or a carer/relative looking after a loved one, Age Connect Cardiff and Vale are holding an informal session at the Senior Health Shop, 38 Holton Road, Barry on October 7 (10am to 12 midday). No appointment is needed.

Legal advice

AGE Connect Cardiff and Vale are also holding a free legal advice session at the Senior Health Shop on Thursday, October 9 (10am to 12 midday).

Contact 01446 732385 for further information.

Floral demo

MEMBERS of the Barry Floral Society will be entertained by Linda Garrett of Abergavenny on Tuesday, October 7 with a demonstration – 'There Ain't Nothing Like a Dame' – at St Nicholas Community Hall, St Nicholas Road, Barry at 2.15pm. New members welcome.

Charity show

THE St Athan Golf Club (Ladies' section) is holding a fashion show in aid of Marie Curie on Thursday, October 9 at 7pm for 7.30pm.

Clothes by Ushi's of Cowbridge, hair by Fich And Ramous of Cowbridge. Tickets £8 (including a glass of wine and nibbles) are available from the ladies' captain, Jenny Young, on 01446 792942.

Antique fair

COTTRELL PARK Golf Resort (off A48 St Nicholas in the Vale), will host an antique and collectors' fair on Saturday, October 11.

In Tylor's Cabin, there will be a diverse range of antiques and collectables, including fine porcelain, pottery, jewellery, silverware and the 'odd quirky item'. Entrance £1, free car parking.

Green Flag

ON Saturday October 11 at 11.30am, a Green Flag will be raised in Central Park, Barry and Barry Citizens' Action Group invites all those with an interest in the park to celebrate the event.

The Green Flag scheme is designed to recognise and reward standards of excellence in parks and green spaces and their value to the people who use them.

Weavers' workshop

THE next meeting of the Glamorgan branch of Guild of Weavers, Spinners and Dyers will be held on Saturday, October 11 at the Scout Hut, Dinas Powys.

This will be an all-day workshop from 10am – 4pm; the subject will be Drop Spindle and Long Draw workshop facilitated by Andrew Johnson.

Visitors are welcomed. Members £17.50, non-members £20. For further information, email glamorganguildwsd@gmail.com.

Art show

RHOOSE Art Group's exhibition and sale of paintings take splace at the Community Centre, Stewart Road, from 11am-5pm on Saturday, October 11; admission 50p.

Glaucoma talk

THE Princess of Wales Hospital in Bridgend is holding a patient Glaucoma Support Group meeting in the hospital's Eye Unit, at 1.30pm on October 24.

Eryl Williams, of the International Glaucoma Association and Sue Taylor of 'Guide Dogs' will be speaking. Enquiries on 07884 310992.

Litter pick

LLANBLETHIAN Community Group (LCG) have planned a litter pick morning on Saturday, October 18 and volunteers will be supplied with all litter grabs, gloves and black plastic bags on four planned routes around the village, from the church hall at 10am.

Tai Chi training course

BRIDGEND Communities First is organising a Tai chi train the trainer six-week course with Sundragon from October 31 at 10am – 11.30am in the Evergreen Hall, Angel Street, Bridgend, CF31 4AD.

Free of charge to all those living in Bridgend Communities First postcode areas. Call 01656 643518 or email Jeremy.Dimond@bridgend.gov.uk.

Armistice play

BRIDGEND Castle Players, Coytrahen Community Assocation and Llan Lower Community Council are proud to present their Armistice production – *The Prisoner's Friend*, a play by Peter Drake about life in the trenches of the Great War, in Coytrahen Community Centre on November 7 (8pm start). Tickets are £5. All proceeds will be donated to SSAFA and the Royal British Legion.

For further information, visit www.bridgendcastleplayers.org or contact secretary@bridgendcastleplayers.org.

Ty Hafan lottery draw winners

THE following are winning numbers in the Ty Hafan Crackerjackpot lottery draw number D846.

- **£2,000:** 580424.
- **The rollover, which now stands at £1,500 was not won this week.**
- **£10:** 608769, 198261, 554961, 974227, 682243, 892448, 246742, 835462, 164424, 248520, 127346, 392115, 587561, 388372, 315820, 137811, 781150, 370421, 575039, 267538.
- **£5:** 649158, 640444, 659600, 812206, 646064, 537199, 476306, 703946, 608840, 948824, 814434, 868133, 703362, 823474, 408260, 254364, 390380, 821186, 859694, 876066, 186851, 615624, 422943, 318067, 617893, 782485, 356125, 470271, 864433, 525225, 548746, 902687, 214058, 413068, 957123, 483487, 510415, 741014, 127433, 305054, 191532, 501060, 347926, 480572, 326454, 339268, 419770, 761423, 177903, 711689, 311405, 190663, 789925, 121381, 216188, 387841, 485426, 893, 1832, 357.

The GEM cannot be held responsible for any errors or omissions contained in the above.

For lottery information please telephone 029 2053 2300.

CRONENBERG'S MAP OFFERS BOTH SATIRE AND WEIRDNESS

by GARETH JAMIESON
Follow Screen Talk on Twitter – @GEMScreenTalk

DIRECTOR David Cronenberg's filmography has been littered with movies that have taken a skewed look at the world, the likes of *Scanners, Videodrome* and the ubiquitous *Crash* all filtered through Cronenberg's own particular point of view.

While he had taken a turn for the more straightforward with the *A History of Violence, Eastern Promises* and *A Dangerous Method, Cosmopolis* saw him revert to type, and his latest, *Maps To The Stars*, comes from a similar place.

Taking a satirical look at Hollywood, it stars Mia Wasikowska as Agatha, a mysterious girl who lands a job working for actress Havana Segrand (Julianne Moore), whose desperation to land the role in a remake of a film her dead mother starred in is all consuming.

It also tells the story of young star Benjie (Evan Bird), whose career seems to be spiralling out of control, much to the chagrin of his parents (John Cusack and Olivia Williams); but are all these lives connected in some way?...

Hollywood and the satirisation of it is a tricky thing to handle; play it too broadly and you lack any bite or snap, play it too tightly and you'll find the comedy whizzing over the audience's heads.

Maps To The Stars plays it just right, though any casual filmgoers who are intrigued enough to tackle David Cronenberg's latest fever dream may find themselves a little lost, with the narrative itself loose and freeform enough to perhaps disengage some from the story it's trying to tell.

Writer Bruce Wagner has obviously spent plenty of time around the filmmaking machine, his script lampooning remakes, safe child-friendly comedies populated by drug-crazed stars, the diva demands of the rich and famous, and the general sense of pomposity you can't help but feel Hollywood and its denizens can become cocooned in.

Yet, rather than aim for straight-ahead satire, he lumps in more – from the weight of family secrets either told or untold, to the lengths some will go to achieve their dreams and ambitions and even darker avenues – and this is where Wagner finds the perfect director in David Cronenberg.

Never a man to make an easy film, even his more straightforward efforts have been leavened with some off-kilter mystery and madness, the director takes in everything Wagner offers him and savours it.

The film has the woozy feel that films set in Los Angeles tend to have by default, but as ever Cronenberg's lens sees more than just what's on the surface.

Whether it's Wasikowska dancing absent mindedly, a seemingly innocuous conversation between an actress who got the role and the one who didn't, or visitations from beyond the grave – the camera is always probing beneath the surface, questioning and teasing.

There is a truly breathtaking performance from Julianne Moore as the actress whose career seems to be slowly slipping away, only to be offered the redemption of the role played once by her mother – Moore playing the role with no concession to vanity and delivering a turn that is one of her best – while Mia Wasikowska dials up the 'kooky' as the mysterious Agatha but with much more going on below the surface.

John Cusack relishes a role he can get his teeth into as a self-help guru, while Evan Bird's Bieber-esque starlet shows substance and empathy as the have-it-all actor finds himself slipping slowly off the rails.

There's even a small turn from Cronenberg's seeming latest muse, Robert Pattinson, which shows he's certainly put his schlocky vampire routine to bed once and for all.

Certainly, the odd levels are dialled up to a very high number indeed, but the story itself plays out a little predictably, with only the occasional curveball – while anyone hoping for some real resolution will be a little disappointed. But, as a slice of slightly bonkers satire, *Maps To The Stars* certainly offers an interesting route.

VERDICT: A sharp, peculiar satire that may be a little too specific for some, *Maps To The Stars* is nevertheless an intriguing viewing experience. A top cast work hard with the material, in particular Julianne Moore's sensational turn, and Bruce Wagner's script is serviced with aplomb by David Cronenberg's offbeat direction. *Enjoyable*.

SEE THIS IF YOU LIKED: *Mulholland Drive* (2001), *The Player* (1992).

Sad Seren looking for someone she can trust

The GEM has joined forces with the Dogs Trust to find suitable homes for inmates at the Bridgend rehoming centre.

SEREN is a four-year-old crossbreed who has had a complicated life, having been in several different homes – so she can struggle with new situations – but once settled she is a friendly dog who really loves people.

She does enjoy the company of other dogs, but would prefer to be the only dog in the home. Seren loves her toys and treats, and is very affectionate.

She is looking for a home for life where her trust won't be broken again. She can live with older children, is housetrained, and can be left alone for a few hours.

If you can offer Seren a home, please call us on 01656 725219 or pop into Dogs Trust Bridgend.

Linda Feagan
(Supporter Relations Officer, Dogs Trust Bridgend)

Seren.

SNAKES KEEP ROCK AND ROLL ALIVE

Album review by Ashley Cox

KISS bassist Gene Simmons recently announced to the world that "rock and roll is dead". Fortunately, Barry-based four-piece Denim Snakes did not receive the memo.

Springing to life with an infectiously-zestful single 'The Guard', their eponymous debut album (released on October 11) is a mere heartbeat over 28 minutes in length; but its thrills are in no short supply.

With the relentless 'Don't You Want Me?' most reminiscent of frontman Russell Toomey's past material, new bandmates Jake Ellis-Scott, Mattise Clarke and Tom Hall add a fresh buoyancy to the mix; something reflected across the 10 tracks.

The album soars in its softer moments, with the cruising melancholy of '21' revealing a tenderly-wistful side of the band and introspective standout 'It'll Be Alright' exploring themes of vulnerability and self-doubt; before drawing its defiant conclusions.

More than anything else though, 'Denim Snakes' is a ferociously feel-good rock record; reinforced by the potent one-two punch of 'Party Hard' (an anthemic romp of a hit single, if bands still enjoyed hit singles) and further highlight 'The Runaways', which sees Toomey's distorted verse mutate into the purest of pop-rock choruses.

With a back catalogue that would be the envy of many, 'Denim Snakes' confirms that former My Red Cell musician Toomey retains the talent, both as songwriter and performer, to make a mark on his genre once more.

'Denim Snakes' by Denim Snakes is released on October 11, available via Amazon, iTunes and streaming on Spotify, as well as in CD format from various stockists.

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BRIDGEND GOES FOODIE ON FEASTIVAL FRIDAY!

Photos by MANDY THOMAS
(Available for purchase, telephone 07541 982794)
www.mandythomasphotography.co.uk

THE now annual Feastival food event in Bridgend town centre went ahead this year on Friday and Saturday (September 26/27).

The town's streets were packed with stalls offering a huge variety of tasty treats. with hot and cold food, and food from many countries.

The photographs on this page were taken on the Friday and, even with people at work and with children in school, stallholders were still doing good business as local people had a good look around, often taking the chance to try what was on offer.

RIGHT: Volunteers from St John's House on Newcastle Hill were dressed in period costume, publicising its 'open doors' day on the Saturday. (See story on page 6).

The War on terror cannot be won from air alone...

DIPLOMACY THE LONG TERM SOLUTION

WESTMINSTER NOTEBOOK

Bridgend MP MADELEINE MOON is writing an exclusive monthly report from Westminster for The GEM.

I WAS planning to talk about lots of local visits; helping the Cornelly Labour Party put out leaflets about dog fouling, delivering newsletters and attending the Crossroads care AGM at the Hi Tide.

There were going to be some words about a conference in Manchester about 'postvention', the importance of support given to people who have been friends and family of people who have taken their own lives.

It is estimated that every suicide brings costs of close to a million pounds because of the trauma caused to those who knew the person who died.

The saddest statement I heard was how people who are not immediate family who are in great distress, feel unable to ask for help and support because they feel guilty and less entitled to help for this when they are not very close family.

The conference introduced some startling facts, such as 44 per cent of the population of Scotland have been touched by suicide, yet 70 per cent did not ask for help.

The Manchester conference brought a much-needed new focus on those bereaved by suicide and the support available from local organisations, the NHS and Samaritans.

However, throughout the conference there were texts and emails from journalists asking whether Parliament would be recalled.

No one knew.

Emails and text messages brought replies of 'possibly' and 'maybe' but it was not until 5.20pm on Wednesday that the recall was confirmed.

I had not taken my parliamentary pass with me to Manchester, had a return ticket to Wales but if I wanted to speak in the debate I had to be in the Chamber by 10.30am on Friday to hear David Cameron start the debate.

Rules about speaking in debates are complex. You must be in the Chamber at the start of the debate, must remain there for the opposition front bench reply and must have notified the Speaker's office formally if you wish to 'catch his eye'.

Speakers are called in order of seniority, ex-Ministers coming first, followed by long-standing members, then in order of how infrequently you have spoken.

The more often you speak in the Commons, the lower down the list of those to be called you will be.

I had asked to speak and have a high speaking record so knew I would be low down the list. A five-minute speaking time was introduced by the Speaker, but if two interventions are taken, the speaker earns an extra minute. Large numbers had asked to speak and the debate was wide ranging.

It was quickly established that taking part in air strikes was legal, as the invitation had come from the democratically-elected Prime Minister of Iraq. The motion before Parliament was clearly worded, that there would be no air strikes over Syria and no UK ground based forces.

The UK would be providing six Typhoon fighter jets to join a coalition including other members of Nato and Gulf countries.

I was, and am, deeply concerned about the fate of the two British hostages held by IS and worried that our engagement would precipitate a revenge killing. One British hostage has already been killed and two Americans by IS.

In Algeria, a French tourist was killed following French attacks on IS and in the Philippines, two elderly Germans are being held by the Abu Sayyaf terrorist group.

I was unhappy during the debate to hear the repeated statements that attacks should be extended into Syria without a UN mandate. An attack without an invitation from the Syrian government could see British personnel who took part called before the international criminal court.

The motion was debated for five hours, with the speaking time gradually reduced to only three minutes. Making a three-minute speech on such an important issue is deeply frustrating, as argument is replaced by questions and statements to obtain maximum use of time.

I was not eager to vote for the motion as I know that this war will only be won by troops on the ground. Air attacks can deplete enemy air support, gun emplacements and large groups of fighters on the ground, but they can do little in street fighting and clearing and holding areas previously held by the enemy.

Britain has a Brimstone missile, which is highly accurate and can target one room in a house while leaving the rest standing. It greatly reduces the number of civilian deaths but is not infallible.

I am opposed to British troops being involved in ground fighting and urged the deputy Prime Minister to provide details of the Arab countries who had committed to both air and land engagement.

I understand that the mainly Sunni countries surrounding Iraq are unhappy about attacking the Sunni fighters of IS. The urgent need is for the Shia-led government in Baghdad to provide political incentives for Sunni tribes to turn against IS and fight alongside the mainly Shia Iraqi army.

An intensive British diplomatic mission is the next vital step in ensuring a federal Iraq can enable Shia, Sunni and Kurds to live, prosper and coexist in peace.

This will only happen with the approval and support of the neighbours, Shia Iranians, the Sunni Saudis, along with Turkey's acceptance of increased political independence for Kurdistan.

The immediate threat is of IS, only five miles outside of the capital Baghdad with its large Shia population. Given the number of horrific deaths in towns and villages taken by these bloodthirsty barbaric killers, there was an imperative to take action.

Sadly, this is only the start of the conflict. Terrorism can only thrive with men, money and ideology. Cutting back on the numbers of men attracted to fight for IS and other terror groups comes from working with and reassuring Muslim communities in the UK, intensive diplomatic activity throughout the Muslim world and the creation of a new inclusive Iraqi state.

Destroying the oil wells which provide money and cutting the support from donors is essential. For the ideology to be destroyed there needs to be a greater sense of hope, justice and legitimacy across the nations infected by the virus of terrorism.

We have a long way to go.

Commemorating the centenary of the First World War

WE WILL REMEMBER THEM

Peter Kollwitz – one of the innocents...

by GAVIN DAVIES

IN July 1914, 17-year-old Peter Kollwitz from Berlin, was on holiday in Norway with some friends and when they heard that Germany was at war, they got the train from Bergen to Oslo to return home immediately.

Vladslo German cemetery.

They were going to join up to defend their country and like many young men all over Europe they were "talking excitedly about their new identity as fighters, lit up by sensuality and the thrill of imagined battle," even if it was rather embarrassing to meet friendly British and French tourists on the train.

Peter's father, Karl, a doctor who worked in a poor quarter of Berlin and his mother Kathe, an artist, both had left wing and pacifist views, were against the war, and did not want Peter and his elder brother Hans to enlist.

Kathe wrote in her diary: *"The idea of mere boys going into battle strikes me as senseless. It is all so pointless, so insane…"*.

Finally believing that Germany was actually threatened, they reluctantly agreed and by mid-August the boys were in the army.

Hans and Peter were not alone. Although the German army was conscripted in peacetime, some of the young men who were available were not called up. Many of these, with others like Peter who had not reached call-up age, now wanted to fight for their country for patriotic reasons – because it seemed an exciting thing to do, because their friends were going, or because authority figures like schoolmasters put pressure on youngsters to enlist.

Erich Maria Remarque's famous book (and film) *All Quiet on the Western Front* about the Great War includes such scenes.

None of these young men had any military training. Equipped in the regimental depots they started their military life, like all recruits in all nations, on the drill square.

During August and September, their training continued and during September they were formed into 12 new infantry divisions organised in six corps, perhaps 150,000 men in all.

Germany had planned to defeat France by mid-September by launching about a million men in an enormous 'right hook' through Belgium. It nearly worked, but in early September, the German advance was halted at the River Marne and the Germans were pushed back a few miles and dug in on the high ground north of the River Aisne. From Soissons to the Swiss frontier, both sides entrenched.

Germany's great gamble on a quick victory had failed. Or had it? The 140-mile gap between Soissons and the Channel coast was almost unguarded. Eight of the new divisions were sent west to break through the Allied lines near Ypres, turn the Allied flank, capture Calais and the Channel Ports.

On October 12, Peter Kollwitz, now serving in No 4 Company of the 207th Reserve Infantry Regiment one of the four in the 44th Reserve Division which was itself part of the XXth Reserve Corps said goodbye to his family.

Meanwhile, the British Expeditionary Force and French troops had moved north into Belgium and by October were holding Ypres. To the north, the Belgian army was dug in along the line of the canal and railway to the coast. The stage was set for another great clash of arms.

The 207th Regiment attacked the Belgian-held line at Esen, near Dicksmuide, about half way between Ypres and the coast.

A German officer, Rudolf Binding, wrote in his diary: "… *these young fellows we have, only just trained, are too helpless, particularly when the officers have been killed. Our light infantry battalion, almost all Marburg students … have suffered terribly from shellfire. In the next division, just such young souls, the intellectual flower of Germany, went singing into an attack on Langemarck, just as vain and just as costly."*

The Grieving Parents statues.

Fighting the same new formations around Ypres a platoon of the Gordon Highlanders, perhaps 40 men, counted 240 German dead on its front on one day.

The Germans named these battles 'The Kindermord von Ypern' – 'The Massacre of the Innocents of Ypres' – doubtless the biblical reference is deliberate.

Perhaps those who have been in the army might consider how they would have felt being put into battle after only seven or eight weeks training.

On October 23, Peter Kollwitz was killed. His mother, Kathe Kollwitz, learned of his death on the 30th. "*Your pretty shawl will no longer be able to warm our boy,*" was the touching way she broke the news to a close friend. To another friend she admitted: "*There is in our lives a wound which will never heal. Nor should it.*"

Kathe, a well known artist and sculptor, devised the idea of a memorial, but it was not until much later that she produced a design which satisfied her.

The pair of statues – The Parents – usually referred to as – 'The Grieving Parents' – modelled on herself and her husband were completed in April 1931. *"In the autumn – Peter – I shall bring it to you,"* she wrote in her diary.

They were dedicated in 1932, about the same time as the Thiepval Memorial to the Missing on the Somme. They were originally placed in Friedhof Roggeveld, the military cemetery where Peter was buried, but in 1956 it was merged with the German military cemetery at Vladslo.

Kathe's statues now stand at the back of the cemetery, with the male figure looking at the stone bearing Peter's name a few yards away. Peter's original grave cross is at the In Flanders Fields Museum in Ypres.

Kathe was only just in time. The Nazis were on the rise and her work was seen as degenerate. She and her husband Karl were nearly sent to a concentration camp and in 1940 Karl died.

Kathe's grandson, named Peter after his uncle, was killed in 1942 at Stalingrad. Her home and all her possessions were destroyed by British bombing in 1943. Kathe herself died on April 22, 1945. The statues commemorating her dead son are a major part of her legacy to us and a reminder of the horrors war brings.

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BARRY STARS CELEBRATE AS...

Cupid fires arrow at local couple in national skittles championships!

EVEN though the Barry Stars ladies skittles team didn't come away with any trophies at the Butcombe British Championships this year, there was plenty to celebrate as one of their team, Sasha Morgan became engaged to Scott Evans at the competition, amid congratulations from all the team.

The women's team who play out of the Sea View Club, reached the quarter finals last year at their first attempt.

However, this year they were up against former champions the Sinners from Exeter and exited gracefully after the first round. First round losers automatically enter the women's Plate competition and the team valiantly reached the semi-finals, before going out to St John's Rollers from Weston Super Mare.

Organiser of the championships, Rachel Bourke from the Shoot Out Club, was thrilled to hear the romantic news. "Torquay is a very romantic place with its lovely bay and palm trees so we are thrilled to hear that its magic has worked for Scott and Sasha. We all send them our very best wishes and congratulations!"

This year's Butcombe British Skittles Championships, which began in April with a series of leagues and playoffs, involved nearly 150 teams from all over the UK of which 64 qualified for Saturday's finals.

It is now being registered as the biggest skittles tournament in the world, with Guinness World Records.

By the time the final ball was been thrown, 1,696 people had taken part in 472 matches over much of the country. More than a quarter of a million skittles were stuck up and then knocked down by over 130,000 balls.

By the time the winners reached the podium, the competitors had played the equivalent of nearly 30 days worth of skittles.

"We know of no other skittles competition in the world that involves so many people," said Rachel. "So a record will definitely be set and we hope confirmed soon by Guinness."

Jane Blanchard

Antique and collectors' fair

Cottrell Park golf resort (off the A48 at St Nicholas in the Vale) will again host an antique and collectors' fair on Saturday, October 11, in Tylor's Cabin.

A diverse range of antiques and collectables includes fine porcelain, pottery, jewellery, silverware and the 'odd quirky item'.

Refreshments available to purchase from 'The Clubhouse'; entrance £1; free car parking.

Daylight robbery

POLICE APPEAL

POLICE have appealed for help to trace "brazen" youths who stole a gold necklace from a woman in Sea View Terrace, Barry, on Saturday, July 12 around 4.30pm, during the Cadstock event.

The woman was walking from St Oswald's Road on to Sea View Terrace, when she was approached by youths who asked for directions to Tesco.

As she started to direct them, she felt someone grab at her necklace.

The youths then made off in the direction of Church Road. The woman was not injured.

They are described as white, aged 13-16 years of age. Sergeant Mark Jones said: "These offenders carried out a brazen theft during daylight in full view of a busy street.

"I am certain there would have been a number of people around Sea View Terrace at this time and we are asking them to call us if they witnessed the crime taking place, or saw the group of youths before or after the burglary happened".

Anyone with information is asked to call South Wales Police on 101 quoting reference number 1400250700.

Alternatively, Crimestoppers free and anonymously on 0800 555 111.

Cosmeston thefts

LANTERNS, wooden bowls and a cast iron cauldron were among items stolen by thieves at Cosmeston Medieval Village over the past week.

Smaller items were believed to have been taken during the village's opening times, but the theft of the cauldron was believed to have occurred overnight on Saturday, September 20.

PS Julie Madoc reported: "The thieves cut off padlocks from the gate to gain entry to the site. Although the items are not of great monetary value, their value to the medieval village is great".

Police are appealing for anyone who has information to contact them on 101, quoting reference number 1400353670.

Apprentices will help rebuild historic Welsh palace at St Fagans

TWO new apprentice stonemasons have been hired by Wales's national open air museum to help recreate one of the nation's lost historic palaces.

ABOVE; Matthew Roberts (left) and Brett Burnell, who have joined the historic buildings unit at St Fagans National History Museum, Cardiff as apprentice stonemasons.

Matthew Roberts from Maesteg and Brett Burnell from Barry have joined the historic buildings unit at St Fagans National History Museum, Cardiff as apprentice stonemasons, their posts funded by players of People's Postcode Lottery for three years.

They are currently both enjoying their work on the re-construction of two new buildings at St Fagans, based on archaeology found at Llys Rhosyr – one of the medieval courts of the Princes of Gwynedd on Anglesey.

The experimental archaeology project forms part of a major redevelopment of St Fagans funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund and the Welsh Government.

Two buildings, including the main hall wall, will be built at St Fagans. With its nine metre high stone walls and huge thatched timber roof, the building of the hall will be testament to the skills of the museum's historic buildings unit.

Matthew "can't wait" to start his formal training in NVQ level 2 in stonemasonry. He had followed his father's footsteps in bricklaying, but at the age of 23 has chosen a new career in stonemasonry.

Brett describes his new post as the "perfect job" and is looking forward to starting a career in stonemasonry. He has worked in construction for over 10 years and since working as a labourer for a stonemasonry workshop, he has wanted to be a stonemason.

Both Matthew and Brett will also study for an NVQ level 2 at Bath College; it is hoped they will progress and achieve a NVQ level 3 in stonemasonry and in Heritage Skills.

Janet Wilding Head of the Historic Buildings Unit said:

"We are very grateful that players of People's Postcode Lottery are able to support these posts and enable two apprentices to be trained in traditional skills at St Fagans.

"The funding will allow a new generation of craftspeople to learn traditional building skills and help us to fulfil one of the most exciting building projects in the museum's history."

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A WELCOME FOR EVERYONE IN WELSH MEDIUM EDUCATION

Gwaun y Nant school gains prestigious ICT Mark Award

CHILDREN at Ysgol Gymraeg Gwaun y Nant in Barry are at the forefront of using technology to enhance their work, and that's official!

Following an extensive external assessment the school has been awarded the prestigious ICT Mark.

The award recognises the school's success in developing the strategic use of technology in both administration and across the curriculum. Parents will have proof that their children are attending a school at the forefront of modern technology.

Headteacher Rhydian Lloyd commented: "On behalf of Ysgol Gymraeg Gwaun y Nant, I am delighted to be awarded the ICT Mark. It recognises our positive approach to the use of technology and the benefits it is bringing to our children.

"We believe that the technology can be used in every aspect of learning and that it is essential our children are equipped for the modern world."

The lead member of staff, teacher Guto Rhys, involved in ensuring the school was ready for the ICT Mark assessment, added:"I am really pleased that the presentation of this award shows recognition of the excellent work that is taking place at Ysgol Gymraeg Gwaun y Nant. Applying for the award really brought into focus the ICT work that we are doing each and every day. All the children and staff deserve credit for this achievement."

Mark Chambers, CEO of Naace, the professional association for advancing education through technology, said: "Ysgol Gymraeg Gwaun y Nant thoroughly deserves the accolade of an ICT Mark accreditation. They clearly demonstrate how important it is to take a whole school approach to using technology in schools. We look forward to working with Gwaun y Nant to demonstrate how technology can have a substantial impact on learner outcomes in the future."

Marc Safon TGCh i Gwaun y Nant

MAE plant Ysgol Gymraeg Gwaun y Nant ar flaen y gad wrth ddefnyddio technoleg i ehangu eu gwaith, ac mae hynny'n swyddogol!

Ar ôl asesiad allanol drwyadl derbyniodd yr ysgol y marc safon clodfawr.

Mae'r wobr yn cadarnhau llwyddiant yr ysgol wrth ddatblygu strategaeth bendant o ddefnyddio technoleg wrth weinyddu ac ar draws y cwricwlwm. Mae'n brawf i rieni fod eu plant yn mynychu ysgol sy'n flaengar gyda thechnoleg fodern.

Dywedodd y pennaeth Rhydian Lloyd: "Rwy'n hynod o falch i dderbyn y Marc Safon TGCh ar ran Ysgol Gwaun y Nant. Mae'n cydnabod ein agwedd bositif at ddefnyddio technoleg a'r buddiannau a ddaw i'n plant yn sgîl hynny. Credwn fod modd defnyddio technoleg ym mhob agwedd o ddysgu a'i fod yn hanfodol fod gan ein disgyblion sgiliau cyfrifiadurol ar gyfer y byd modern.

Ychwanegodd Guto Rhys, yr athro fu'n arwain y paratoi ar gyfer yr asesiad: "Mae'r marc safon hwn yn dangos y gwaith ardderchog sy'n digwydd yma yn Ysgol Gwaun y Nant. Roedd ymgeisu am y wobr yn gyfle i ffocysu ar y gwaith techgwyb y gwnawn o ddydd i ddydd. Mae'r holl ddisgyblion a staff yn haeddu clod am y wobr."

Meddai Mark Chambers, prif weithredwr Naace, y gymdeithas broffesiynol dros arwain addysg drwy thechnoleg: "Mae Ysgol Gymraeg Gwaun y Nant yn llawn haeddu'r marc safon yma. Mae'n dangos pa mor bwysig ydyw i gael agwedd bositif wrth ddefnyddio technoleg ar draws yr ysgol gyfan. Disgwyliwn ymlaen at weithio gyda Gwaun y Nant i ddangos sut y gall technoleg gael dylanwad aruthrol ar ganlyniadau dysgu yn y dyfodol."

PARENT POWER

Playtime fun at Ysgol Sant Baruc, Barry. Photograph courtesy of Colorfoto, Photography and Marketing Specialists.

"THE wider school community is vitally important to us in St Baruc," says headteacher Rhian Andrew. "We are particularly fortunate to have many great parents who are very supportive and make a huge effort to get involved in school life. I really feel that we are working together as a team for the benefit of our children.

"Welcoming parents into school is a priority for us. The vast majority of parents in Barry will not be Welsh speakers – it's the reality of the community in which we live – but we want every family to feel included and a part of school life. Our school PTA is very active and are great fundraisers. Recently as a school we raised £2,000 for the NSPCC – on top of our normal school fundraising. I never cease to be amazed."

Mrs Andrew continues: "One important way in which parents can become more involved with school life is though our 1:1 reading programme. Parents volunteer to come in to help children with their reading, in both English and Welsh.

"It's very heartening to see parents who are Welsh learners come in to help pupils with their Welsh reading. It's a great win-win situation.We hold a presentation ceremony to celebrate our reading programme. This helps raise the profile of the initiative and emphasises the positive results we see each year."

Parent and a former pupil of Welsh medium education who had not spoken the language since school Louise Vann said: "It's a pleasure to be part of St Baruc's reading programme. I've been doing it for 3 years and enjoy spending quality time with pupils to help them improve their reading and general literacy skills. It's a boost for my own Welsh too as I listen and help pupils with their Welsh reading. It's very rewarding."

Canmol rhieni ysbrydoledig

"MAE cymuned ehangach yr ysgol yn hynod bwysig i ni yn Sant Baruc," dywedodd y pennaeth, Rhian Andrew. "Rydyn yn ffodus iawn i gael nifer fawr o rieni sy'n gefnogol tu hwnt ac sy'n gwneud ymdrech arbennig i fod yn rhan o fywyd yr ysgol. Rwy'n teimlo ein bod ni'n gweithio ar y cyd fel tîm er budd ein plant.

"Mae estyn croeso i rieni i mewn i'r ysgol yn flaenoriaeth i ni. Mae'r rhan fwyaf o rieni'r Barri yn bobl ddi-gymraeg - dyna realiti'r sefyllfa yma - ond rydyn eisiau i bob teulu i deimlo'n rhan o fywyd yr ysgol.

"Mae Cymdeithas Rhieni Athrawon yr ysgol yn weithgar iawn. Yn ddiweddar fel ysgol mi wnaethon gasglu £2,000 er budd yr NSPCC – a hynny ar ben ein hymgyrchu arferol. Mae'n wych!"

Ychwanegodd Mrs Andrew: "Un ffordd bwysig gall rhieni ddod yn rhan o fywyd yr ysgol yw drwy ein rhaglen ddarllen 1:1. Mae gwirfoddolwyr yn dod mewn i helpu plant gyda'u darllen yn Gymraeg ac yn Saesneg. Mae'n hyfryd gweld dysgwyr yn cynorthwyo gyda'r darllen Cymraeg. Mae pawb ar eu hennill. Rydyn yn cynnal seremoni wobrwyo pob blwyddyn i ddathlu ein rhaglen ddarllen. Mae hyn yn codi proffil yr ymgyrch ac yn gyfle i danlinelli y canlyniadau calonogol."

Meddai Louise Vann, rhiant a chyn-ddisgybl addysg Gymraeg sydd heb ddefnyddio'i Chymraeg ers dyddiau ysgol: "Mae'n bleser i fod yn rhan o raglen ddarllen Sant Baruc. Dwi wedi bod yn helpu ers tair blynedd a dwi'n mwynhau treulio amser gyda'r disgyblion i wella eu darllen. Mae'n hwb i fy Nghymraeg i hefyd."

WELSH EDUCATION WORKS...

MENNA ROBERTS, headteacher of Ysgol Gymraeg Nant Talwg in Barry is particularly proud of the fact that eight members of her staff are themselves former pupils of Welsh schools in the Vale.

"This just shows that Welsh education works doesn't it?" she said. "And it underlines the fact that being able to speak Welsh is a win-win situation!"

The former pupils of Ysgol Sant Ffransis, Ysgol Sant Baruc, Ysgol Sant Curig and Ysgol Pen y Garth are: Jo Bolton, Anna Mepham Brown, Menna Gibbon, Bethan John, Bethan Lye, Tomos Rogers, Rebecca Townsend Ryan and Rhian Shugar.

Anna Mepham Brown, administrative officer in Ysgol Nant Talwg, said: "When I started school in Sant Ffransis, many moons ago, I didn't realise that my parents had made a life changing decision! None of my family spoke Welsh. Have I got any regrets? Definitely not! Today I enjoy being able to speak Welsh in my job and in some way I feel that I'm putting something back."

Rebecca Townsend Ryan who is a Learning Support Assistant in the school told us: "I love being able to speak two languages and I'm really proud of the fact that I'm a fluent Welsh speaker. My parents don't speak Welsh but Welsh is really important to me and it's even helped me get a job! "

Welsh education in the Vale is clearly a success... and the story continues!

Menna Roberts (furthest right) with eight members of staff who are former pupils of Welsh schools in the Vale at Ysgol Nant Talwg.

Y Gymraeg yn Gweithio yn y Fro

MAE MENNA ROBERTS, pennaeth Ysgol Gymraeg Nant Talwg yn Y Barri, yn falch dros ben fod wyth o'i staff yn gyn-ddisgyblion ysgolion Cymraeg y Fro.

"Mae'n dangos fod addysg Gymraeg yn gweithio," meddai. "Ac yn fwy na dim, mae'n tanlinellu'r ffaith fod siarad Cymraeg yn talu ar ei ganfed."

Cyn-ddisgyblion ysgolion Sant Ffransis, Sant Baruc, Sant Curig a Phen-y-Garth yw: Jo Bolton, Anna Mepham Brown, Menna Gibbon, Bethan John, Bethan Lye, Tomos Rogers, Rebecca Townsend Ryan a Rhian Shugar.

Dywedodd Anna Mepham Brown, swyddog gweinyddol yr ysgol:"Pan ddechreuais yn Sant Ffransis, blynyddoedd maith yn ôl, wnes i ddim sylweddoli fod fy rhieini wedi gwneud penderfyniad fyddai'n newid fy mywyd! Does neb yn fy nheulu yn siarad Cymraeg. Ydw i'n flin? Dim o gwbwl! Heddiw dwi'n hapus iawn yn siarad Cymraeg yn fy swydd ac mewn ffordd dwi'n teimlo fy mod yn rhoi rhywbeth yn ôl."

Ychwanegodd Rebecca Townsend Ryan sy'n gynorthwyydd dosbarth: "Dwi'n dwli siarad dwy iaith ac yn falch fy mod yn siarad Cymraeg yn rhugl. Dyw fy rhieni ddim yn siarad Cymraeg ond mae'n bwysig iawn i fi ac fe helpodd fi i gael swydd hefyd!"

Mae addysg Gymraeg yn y Fro yn destun llwyddiant aruthrol....a pharhau mae'r stori!

GEM NOTE

Last week's contact list for Welsh schools included an incorrect number for Ysgol Dewi Sant. The correct number is 01446 709595.

Entering the Dragon's Den...

PUPILS from Ysgol Iolo Morganwg in Cowbridge get a chance to taste entrepreneurship through participating in the annual Dragon's Den initiative.

Based on the popular BBC television series, year five and six pupils are tasked with coming up with a business idea, developing the concept before pitching it to a panel of local 'dragons'. They are then quizzed by the panel, who are just as probing, though considerably less ferocious, than their TV counterparts.

If successful, the pupils are advanced the requested funds and sell their product or service at the school summer fair, with all profits donated to the PTA.

Den y Dreigiau

PROFI mentergarwch yw un o pamcanion Den y Dreigiau sy'n cael ei redeg yn flynyddol yn Ysgol Iolo Morganwg yn Y Bont-faen.

Mae'n seiliedig ar raglen deledu boblogaidd y BBC a chaiff disgyblion blwyddyn 5 a 6 y cyfle i arddangos eu sgiliau busnes. Mae'n rhaid iddynt feddwl am syniad busnes, ei ddatblygu a'i gyflwyno i banel o 'ddreigiau'. Cânt eu holi gan y panel, sy'n llawer fwy addfwyn na dreigiau'r teledu wrth gwrs.

Os yn llwyddiannus caiff y disgyblion arian gan yr ysgol i fuddsoddi yn y cynnyrch neu wasanaeth fydd yn cael eu gwerthu yn y Ffair Haf, gyda'r elw yn mynd at y Gymdeithas Rhieni, Athrawon a Ffrindiau (CRAFF).

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When the time comes to leave school...

SHOULD STUDENTS STRIVE FOR UNI?

by ***CHARLOTTE IRONSIDE***

AFTER six long (but what feels like short-lived) stress-free weeks, it's once again time for the younger generation to return to that place they feel like they've never left... school!

For the new and innocent year-7s, it's the start of their next few years of comprehensive school.

For the year-8s, it's the time they become a fully fledged teenager and lose all the enthusiasm they had in year-7, while for year-9s, it's when those dreaded things called hormones kick in; year-10s start their GCSEs and realise how much easier they had it in years 7, 8, and 9; and year-11s begin their potentially last year of school and soon start to drown in their never-ending pile of coursework, homework, and revision.

For those who decide to come back, the year-12s start their first year of A-Levels and realise what all their now year-13 friends on Facebook were on about when they began complaining about how hard A-Levels were.

As for year-13 students, what does the first day of their last year in school mean? That they will face leaving their second home? That they are going to have to struggle through another year of A-Levels?

That they will finally be 18 and get to buy alcohol whenever they want? Or that they are suddenly becoming responsible mature adults? (Well sort of...)

None of these things, as a matter of fact. The first thing that will soon be drilled into year-13s' heads is UCAS.

For those of you who don't know, UCAS is the most efficient way to apply to university.

Within a few pushes of a button, students can apply to their five choice universities, as well as be told if they have been accepted or not.

Schools across the country will now be stressing to their pupils the importance of them writing their personal statement and getting it sent off; however, past year-13 pupils and teachers will understand the difficulty of writing a personal statement.

How hard it is to sum yourself up as the perfect candidate in 4,000 characters. The difficulty of trying to associate five different universities with five different courses in one personal statement - it's hard. Extremely hard.

Only to then have to wait an agonising few months to see if they have been offered a place.

But is it all worth it?

So let's presume, you've gone through the torture of writing your personal statement. You've been accepted into a university full-time, you've had your three-year course, obtained your degree and have now left uni... *what next?*

Get a job? Not as easy as it sounds. Getting any form of a job now could be argued as reasonably hard, whether you have a degree or not. So it could be said that you spend three years of your life working your backside off for nothing!

Then what about that huge amount of debt you're now in? £9,000 a year times your three years of studying? Total £27,000! Of course, everyone knows that doesn't have to be paid back if you earn below the average wage, but the hassle and thought of it is enough to drive anyone insane!

Christopher Morgan (18), who is now studying in his first year at Bridgend College, said: "I think uni is pointless. It offers the opportunity to have a better lifestyle, but you need to have first accomplished very specific requirements which not all people may be able to achieve, therefore excluding some people from a brighter future."

He continued: "The same goes for the actual cost of uni. Without support it's nearly impossible for a young learner to pay for uni. Those that can't are again being excluded, and their chance of better opportunities is lost."

Although it can't be said that there are no advantages to uni, there are plenty!

Firstly, despite the decrease in job opportunities, a degree will give you the advantage when it comes to applying. Statistics show graduates earn more than non-graduates, meaning that a graduate will have more of a chance when it comes to employment.

Secondly, the uni life! It's time to move out! Get away from your parents! Live an independent life! Attending university, whether local or not, will give you so much more experience when it comes to living on your own.

The majority of young adults learn more in terms of domestic chores while at uni than at any other time in their life.

Additionally, being given the ability to meet and socialise with new people. Yes, everyone has their 'BFF' from comprehensive school, but developing skills such as meeting new people will also give you a huge head start in life in comparison to people who don't attend uni (not to mention Friday and Saturday nights on the town!).

Henry Bowen (18), who will soon start his first year at Warwick University, claimed: "A good university degree gives you a greater earning potential in your working life."

Furthermore, "university provides a completely unique social environment which isn't replicated anywhere else in life, and gives you the opportunity to make life-long friends while pursuing your academic interests."

Despite all this, couldn't it be suggested that maybe schools forget other options for today's students?

A lot of teachers' focus is placed on university, with a lack of it placed on college and apprenticeships. Shouldn't uni, college, and apprenticeships have an equal amount of attention – as well as an equal amount of information given to pupils regarding them? For a lot of under-18s in today's community it's not easy to make a decision on what they want to do with their lives.

Scarlett Marenghi, (17) who is currently in her last year of A-Levels, says: "There's a lot of pressure from teachers and parents to go to uni. For example, in school all they talk about is applying to university and writing your personal statement; they don't discuss other options such as apprenticeships that well."

She continued: "For some people who know what they want to do at university it's a great idea. But for others, it's just a path of life they choose as it's 'the thing to do', and all they get out of it is a big debt and a degree that might not guarantee them a career."

So is university really an essential in life? Should students really have to go through the hell of getting qualifications, in addition to those they have for no apparent reason?

Would it be better sitting in a classroom learning the foundation of a student's chosen course, or going out to gain as much experience as possible in that field of work?

Should students really strive for university?

• Charlotte Ironside is a student at Brynteg Comprehensive School.

Sully couple's 60 happy years of married bliss!

THE Vale of Glamorgan Mayor and Mayoress paid a surprise visit to a Sully couple recently – and presented them with a basket of flowers.

Dorothy and Joseph Ryan were celebrating their diamond wedding anniversary and their daughter, Alison, had contacted the Mayor's office to arrange the visit. Coun Howard Hamilton said: "It is a wonderful achievement to be celebrating 60 years of marriage and Carol and I are delighted to be able to offer our congratulations to Dorothy and Joseph."

Feastival fun helps bring out the crowds

Tasty dishes, quality produce, and entertainment!

THE streets of Bridgend town centre were busy on Friday and Saturday last week, as local people came along to get a taste of the 'Feastival'.

There were food stalls everywhere, and also plenty of street entertainment.

The annual event is organised by Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC) with support from local businesses, and Coun David Sage, the council's Deputy Leader, said: "The Bridgend Feastival always aims to be a food festival with a difference.

"As well as giving you the chance to stock up on delicious food and drink from across the region and beyond, it also adds a selection of fun entertainment to the mix, too.

"This was the fifth year that we have held the event. I'd like to thank all of the sponsors and local traders for really embracing Feastival and being so creative with their ideas to help make the weekend as successful as possible.

"I hope that everyone who went along had a great time."

The Mayor of Bridgend county borough, Coun Gary Thomas, joined paralympic cyclist Simon Richardson on one of the stalls.

PHOTOGRAPHS by **GLYN EVANS**

OTHER PICTURES ARE AVAILABLE FROM THIS EVENT.

Pictures can be purchased by contacting:

E-Mail: ffotoimage@tiscali.co.uk
Telephone 07791 228684
www.ffotoimage.co.uk

Brynteg School rugby round-up

THE Brynteg Senior XV started their Aquazone Schools League campaign against Gowerton Comprehensive School last Wednesday.

Brynteg gave a great account of themselves despite suffering a 22-5 defeat. However, it could have been a completely different story with Brynteg creating plenty of scoring opportunities and gaining huge plaudits for their expansive and all action style of rugby.

Led by captain for the 2014/15 season Lewis Brennan, the Brynteg boys will now look to bounce back from defeat in their next fixture.

There is no doubt Brynteg will be very competitive in their new look schools league and with the league fixtures coming thick and fast until December, the emphasis is very much focused on the future and finishing up the top end of the table.

WELSH CUP – YEARS 9-11

Brynteg year-11 started their 2014/15 Welsh Cup campaign with a hard-fought win away in Maesteg Comprehensive School, 12-7 the final score.

After going behind early on, Brynteg battled back in the second half with tries from Tom Whitelock and Hywel Phillips, with Phillips adding one conversion.

It was a different story for year-9 who were also up against Maesteg Comprehensive School away.

They put in a dominant display, running out 56-12 winners. Brynteg scored 10 tries in total, with captain Cael Chamberlain grabbing four, and centres Dan O'Sullivan and Sam Owen crossing for two apiece. Flankers Dan Osarigie and Kasari Mehta scored one each. Centre Owen added three conversions.

BRITISH SCHOOLS MAGAZINE CUP – YEAR 8

Brynteg School defeated a combative St Johns, Aberdare, team in a tight contest, winning 24-21.

After a slow start, Brynteg grew into the game with captain Ben Owen the catalyst in the forward pack and Centre Joe Watts displaying some fantastic skill in the back line.

Brynteg now look forward to an away fixture with either Ysgol Gyfun Cwm Rhymni or Amman Valley School in round two. **PD**

JOBS FAIR

LOCAL job seekers are being encouraged to attend a Jobs Fair, with their CVs, at the Barry Memorial Hall on Friday, October 3 from 10am–2pm.

There will be training and advice providers, along with volunteering organisations in attendance.

To find out more, contact Communities First on 01446 709432 or visit www.BarryCommunitiesFirst.org.

Cowbridge Comprehensive School sports round-up

Year 8 football team.

THE Year 9 B netball team took part in the Cardiff & Vale netball tournament.

There were four pools of teams. Cowbridge came third in their pool which was won by Eastern High and Howells second. Cowbridge drew three games and lost against Eastern High. Cowbridge were then placed in a pool to finish between sixth and 12th position.

Unfortunately Cowbridge didn't fare so well losing three matches and winning two matches. The team included Paige Fox, Imogen Marlor, Alys Bebb, Aisling McCormack Thomas, Mali Howell (c), Sophie Hendy, Catrin Parsons, Megan Hodgson, and Ffion Langston.

Player of the tournament went to Paige Fox for her interceptions made in every game turning the ball over for Cowbridge to attack. A fabulous effort and improvement from Paige.

HOCKEY

The Year 8 hockey team played away to Plasmawr.

This was the first 11-a-side game for Year 8 and it took a little while for the girls to adjust to their new positions and size of the pitch.

They improved their performance as the game progressed, learning to look and pass to free players to put pressure on the other team.

With no goalkeeper, our defence worked very hard. Sarah Wynne stood out clearing several shots at goal and successfully feeding the ball to the midfield players.

Plasmawr scored in the first half and Eve Mordecai scored for us. Unfortunately Plasmawr scored again in the second half so the final score was Plasmawr 2, Cowbridge 1. Well done to all the girls, player of the match was Beth Edwards.

The senior hockey team had their first match of the season against Bro Morgannwg on September 17.

A very even match with plenty of movement and shots at goal from both teams, Sian Smith and Hannah Lee shared the goalkeeping duties for Cowbridge, both saving shots from Bro Morgannwg.

It was lovely to welcome Bethan Richards to the team who has recently joined the school for her A Levels.

The final score was 0-0, well done girls; don't forget make the most of our coaching sessions on Mondays after school.

RUGBY

Cowbridge opened their group qualifying campaign with a disappointing loss to Gower College at the school fields.

Cowbridge were first on the scoresheet 12 minutes in when Gower collapsed a driving maul from an attacking five metre lineout, resulting in the referee awarding a penalty try; this was converted by outside half Callum Bricknell.

Gower responded to this with an excellent try by wing John Escott.

Next to score was Cowbridge scrum half Liam Free, capitalising from an attacking five metre scrum where Cowbridge were awarded a penalty for a Gower infringement.

The quick thinking Free tapped and forced his way over the line. It was 20 minutes until the next score came from the hard working Gower scrum half Matthew Aubrey, the Wales under-18 showing good strength to power his way over from a ruck five metres out.

Gower wing Harry Davies was next to cross the whitewash, finishing off some approach work by the Gower forwards.

Cowbridge blindside Dan Holder was next up finishing off a 10 metre driving lineout. This was quickly followed by another Cowbridge forward effort which saw them drive the lineout 10 metres, with busy No 8 Aled Ward breaking away and diving over in the corner.

Year 9B netball team.

Cowbridge now needed to score a converted try to win the game with the last play. To their credit they played their way up the field, exposing the Gower defence and getting in behind them. Unfortunately with an open field in front of them Cowbridge were judged to have passed the ball forward, bringing on the final whistle.

Cowbridge will play Neath/Port Talbot College in round two of the qualifying stages. This is a tough away fixture with Cowbride needing to improve to give them a chance of victory.

Cowbridge are in a qualifying group with three other colleges, Gower College, Neath Port Talbot College and Coleg Sir Gar. The top two from the group will be placed in the premier league while the bottom two will be placed in the championship league.

FOOTBALL

The Year 8 football team played St Cyres Comprehensive School in the first round of the Cardiff and Vale regional qualifier for the Welsh Cup.

The conditions for the game were ideal; with no wind present and the sun shining high, it made for a great game.

Cowbridge had the sun in their eyes for the first half, but this did not deter them in the slightest.

They started the game well, with quick and accurate passing in the centre of the pitch. They provided an excellent platform to unleash a number of shots, which were either excellently saved or just missed the target.

The first goal of the new season came from Will Marsden. St Cyres were throwing themselves in front of the ball, making a number of crucial blocks, until Will picked up the ball just outside the box and hammered it into the top corner.

From this moment on, Cowbridge did not look back. St Cyres were fighting with all their might, but could not get the break they wanted. Cowbridge's second goal came from a shot by Jake Thomas, which was just out of the reach of the goalkeeper, and the ball went into the back of the net.

The third goal which put the game beyond St Cyres was scored by Will O'Connor. Will hit the ball from all of 25 yards and it was a goal that would not be out of place in the Premiership.

The halftime whistle went, with the score 3-0 to Cowbridge. St Cyres started the second half with a lot of more intent, but Cowbridge's defence of Matthew Dewhurst and Dan Stancombe would not let them pass.

Cowbridge played some excellent football throughout the rest of the game and scored three more goals through Ed Thomas, Jake Thomas and Matt Oddy.

Well done Year 8! You started the way you left last season, playing brilliant football, and showing your high level of footballing ability. Players of the match: all the team!

Competitions, culture and dance in Maendy YFC!

MAENDY YFC's New Year is well under way! Following a vibrant and well attended new members' evening, focus now turns to forthcoming competitions and club activities, which are an exciting part of the calendar.

Club chairman, Miss Heather Jarvis, recently hosted a visit from South Wales Police at her family farm. Police officers from various units, including dog handlers, firearms and the traffic division, attended the evening and gave informative talks and demonstrations in their respective area of expertise.

Members were fascinated with the specialist equipment and experiences that the officers shared.

The competition season has begun in earnest, with carcass judging taking place on October 6. Stock judging and public speaking competitions are also just around the corner, not to mention a new addition to the busy young farmers' programme of a county eisteddfod for members to try their hand at.

Glamorgan YFC has introduced an eisteddfod competition day to their calendar this year, which will provide members with a further opportunity to display their many skills and talents. This year's competition will take place at Neath Conservative Club on Sunday, October 12.

In preparation for the cultural event, Maendy members are busy rehearsing for the various elements, which include singing, light entertainment and homework pieces.

Aside from competitions, the club holds regular meetings in which members can keep up to date with the latest news, be a part of club decisions and find out what's coming up in the club programme.

Maendy members and supporters are currently looking forward to the annual dinner dance which is taking place on Friday, October 10 at the Swalec Stadium.

As always, new members are welcome to come along and find out what Young Farmers Club is all about! For further information visit www.maendy-yfc.com or email maendy.yfc@gmail.com. You can also 'like' the Maendy YFC Facebook page and follow @MaendyYFC on Twitter. **Louise Evans**

Throwing light on dementia

MANY congratulations to the Desert Divas for their fundraising night at the Memorial Hall last week, in support of the Ty Hapus dementia care centre on Holton Road.

The Desert Divas, who started life from adult education classes in Barry a decade ago, put on an excellent night of entertainment and fun, bringing together middle-eastern dance groups across Wales and the south-west of England – raising funds for an important local charity and raising awareness of international Alzheimer's day that took place on Sunday, September 21.

As a member of the Vale of Glamorgan's health and social care committee, I am aware that dementia is often thought of as being an older person's disease, when, in reality, it can affect people of any age – and the needs of younger people with early onset dementia can be quite different to older people.

That's why it is important that Barry has a charity and facility like Ty Hapus to help individuals and their families deal with the impact of this.

If anybody has any questions about early onset dementia and the charity's work then they should get in touch with Ty Hapus on 01446 738024 or at www.tyhapus.org.uk

Coun Ian Johnson, Barry,
Plaid Cymru – the Party of Wales.

'Votes at 16' a good idea says AM

WELSH Liberal Democrat Assembly Member for South Wales Central, Eluned Parrott, has said that the Scottish referendum must be used as a springboard for votes at 16 to be extended to all elections.

A total of 100,000 16 to 17-year-olds had registered to vote in the Scottish referendum, which was the first time that they have had the right to vote in a major ballot in the UK.

Eluned Parrott said: "Political parties in Wales and Westminster must unite over lowering the voting age to 16. We must build on the momentum of the Scottish referendum and ensure that young people can continue to express their views at the ballot box in future elections."

The Barry & District mens skittles league

DIVISION 1:

49'ers.(R.Nicholls,G. Yarr 29) 293, Ex-Servicemen(R.Lapton 30)) 291; Blue Monkey (N.McCarthy 29) 269, Cavaliers (R.Lewis 26) 234; Barry Park 'B'(P.McCalthy, R.Bishop 28) 299, The Hairy Lemons (D.Gill 23) 232; Colcot Boys (B.Sullivan 29) 221, Mighty Dockers (M.Conway, G.Gurd 27) 266; Mighty Dockers (A.Gurd 30) 275,The Merrymen (J.Gee 30) 293; Park Lads (G.Jones, D.Lambert 28) 268, Colcot Boys (T.Sherrin, K.Thomas 24) 257; Park Rangers (S.Dite 28) 275, Bunker boys (D.Hewitson, S.Western 28)) 271; West End Stars (A.Baker, D.Beattie, C.Alldred 28) 292, Geest (L.Galsworthy 30) 263

Division 2: Barry Social (S.Grant 29) 218, Tynewydd Lads (J.Stacey, D.Sluman 27) 255; Exiles (K.Tudor 30) 270, Tynny Fliers (P.Snook 28) 274; Posties (S.marsh 27) 274, Abercrete (D.Arnold 26) 247; Sea View (K.Pycrofr 34) 305, Witchill Wizards (L.Jones, C.Casado, D.Britian 28) 280; The Royalists (M.Lewis, A.Evens 30) 286, Buffs Exiles (R.Miller 32) 310; Tynewydd Lads (S.Germon 30) 305, Sea View (B.Watkins 30) 268; Witchill Poachers (R.Power 37) 359, BP Breakaways (J.Rees 33) 332; Willie Wombles (I.Draisey 32) 267, Road Runners (S.Hill 29) 265.

Division 3: C.U.D.(P.Palmer 29) 249, Billy Bluebirds (D.Davey 29) 284; Cannon Balls (T.Price 35) 318, Commanchies '2'(W.Palmer 32) 293; 'H'Bells (K.Lewis, B.Howcroft 28) 261, KP Monkey Nuts (J.Clarke 29) 283.

HR

COTTRELL PARK LADIES STAGE OWN RYDER CUP

The two 'Ryder Cup' teams.

Jan and Tessa with the 'Ryder cup cakes'.

THE ladies of Cottrell Park Golf Club pre-empted the Ryder Cup, by playing their own competition with a four-ball better ball matchplay with a USA team captained by Tessa Matthew, and European team captained by Jan Cosby.

Dressed in appropriate colours, the competition was very competitive with a high standard of play. The Europeans won 5 to 3.

The better ball winners on the European team were Lorraine Pointon-Bell and Sandra Collin with 42 points and the USA team Andrea Caines and Maureen Bowen with 41 points. Although cool, it remained dry and was a very enjoyable day.

Ladies' captain Jan Cosby presented the prizes and 'Ryder cup cakes' were appreciated by all.

CB

Bowls fun as the tourists come to play

SULLY Indoor Bowls Club entertained Northampton County Bowls Tourists on Saturday to play a seven-rink friendly; they were also playing a six-rink game in Cardiff.

Their south Wales tour had already taken them to play two games on Friday against Carmarthen sides and were also due to play two games on Sunday at Merthyr and Islwyn.

The Sully Stadium team was made up of stadium members representing their outdoor clubs, e.g. Romilly, Cadoxton, Sully, Millwood, Penarth Windsor and B P Sully.

The game was played in tremendous spirit as touring team friendlies usually are, but the Northampton rinks were also strong, which made for a very competitive game.

A full game of 21 ends was played with five rinks remaining pretty close throughout the game but two Sully rinks struggled from the start, finally losing by 12 and 14 shots; with another rink losing by five shots it was left to the other four Sully rinks to save the day. Although winning on the four rinks the score differentials were not enough to turn the result in Sully's favour with the final score 123-140 to Northampton.

The result appeared immaterial as those taking part enjoyed a good afternoon of bowls with everyone enjoying the camaraderie.

Rink scores (Sully first): K McLeod 28 v 22 T Wright; F Phillips 16 v 21 T James; C James 10 v 24 B Tingle; J Jones 13 v 25 J Church; K Romans 19 v 18 G Hunt; D Curtis 17 v 15 R Somerton; B Foscolo 20 v 15 J Haines.

The first Championship game takes place at Sully against Newport on Saturday, October 11 - will all players who wish to be considered for selection place their names on the availability sheet.

FP

Barry West End cricket team entertain tourists

Saturday saw Barry West End CC entertain English tourists, Plymouth Oddballs at the Barry Oval; the West End fielded first.

Tommy Miller and Dafydd Frost opened the bowling for the West End while Oddballs opened their batting with D Newman and R Porritt.

Both Miller and Frost sent down a maiden each in the opening overs to restrict the scoring. It was Frost who found the made breakthrough when he bowled Porritt for 11.

D Stones was number three for the Oddballs. Miller took the second wicket for the West End when he bowled Newman for three. P Downer came in at number four but his innings was shortlived as he was removed cheaply for one by Frost. R Ingram was batsman number five. Oddballs faltered at 27-3 after 11 overs.

Nye Lane and Richard Eastman were the next into the attack for the Westies. The pair continued the trend of tight bowling, and the pressure brought about the next wicket.

Ingram offered Mark Ellis an easy catch off the bowling of Lane. , and Ingram departed for 14. K Trent was number six for the Oddballs. The Oddballs reached 69-4 at the halfway stage of their innings.

A third change in bowling for the West End saw the introduction of Rhys Hatton and Neil Holmes. D Stones, Oddballs number three, retired upon reaching 50. K Morrish came to the crease as number seven.

Holmes picked up a wicket when he bowled Morrish for 7. A Passman came to the crease as number eight. and Holmes picked up a second wicket when he was caught at cover by Rhys Hatton for 6.

Trent soon picked up the tempo of the Oddballs innings, he dispatched Hatton for 20 in one over, much to the delight of the travelling contingent.

Oddballs found themselves 169-6 with five overs remaining. Trent retired on 53 after a powerful display. B Henit was number nine for the Oddballs. A final bowling change saw Steve Oram and Mark Ellis come on to bowl.

Oram picked up a wicket when he removed Henit for 30. Another two wickets soon followed for Oram, Goodwin was out hit wicket for six and Underhill bowled for nine. Oram and Ellis did well to restrict the free scoring that had dominated the second half of the Oddballs innings and they finished on 203-8 after 40 overs.

After the tea break, the West End opened their account with Mark Williams and Rhys Howell. Oddballs opened the bowling with M Whalley and A Goodwin. Goodwin found the first breakthrough, when he removed Williams caught and bowled for nine.

Ben Collins was number three for the West End. Collins and Howell played superbly to reach 39-1 after 10 overs. D Newman and R Underhill were introduced into the attack by the Oddballs. Collins and Howell continued to score freely around the ground. Howell retired upon reaching his 50.

D Frost was number four for the West End and they soon reached 106-1 after 27 overs. R Porritt and A Passsman were the third bowling change for the Oddballs.

Passman picked up his first and the Oddballs' second wicket when Frost was bowled for 23.

S Oram was number five for the Westies. Porritt picked up his first wicket when Collins was caught behind for a well-made 32. R Eastman was number six, he was quickly removed lbw to Whatton for 0.

M Ellis was number seven, and he too soon fell when Porritt bowled him for 1. Glan Williams was number eight for the West End and Porritt picked up his third wicket when he bowled Williams for two.

Tommy Miller was number nine for the Westies, who were 132-6 with eight overs remaining. Oram was next out, bowled by Porritt for 20. A Lane was number 10 for the West End.

Miller was next out, stumped for eight off the bowling of new bowler R Ingram. R Hatton was number 11, and he was bowled first ball by Ingram. Howell returned to the crease for the final few balls as he had retired not-out.

The West End came up 31 runs short after a well fought game. Both the West End and tourists Plymouth Oddballs returned to the West End club.

Thanks to Steve and Debs Dite for providing curry and chips for all players. All players would also like to thank Keith Nokes and Rhys Thomas for umpiring both innings. Credit to Mark Ellis for his arrangement of the fixture, which was superb.

RH

We welcome your sports reports, news and items of interest - email: *gemeditorial@tindlenews.co.uk*

Farmers travel over Irish Sea!

THIRTY three members and guests of the Glamorgan Farmers' Golf Society recently returned from a very enjoyable trip across the Irish sea after playing 54 holes over three days for the David Evans (Agriculture) Ltd trophy.

The city of Waterford proved a perfect location, leaving just a short coach journey each day to play the three selected courses.

Tramore Golf Club, one of the oldest clubs in Ireland and which over the years has hosted many Irish Championships, proved the ideal venue for the first day's competition, and also for popular member Glyn Watts-Jones, who was celebrating his 81st birthday. Heading the leader board after day one was Jim Hayes with 36 points followed by Dan Jarvis (35) and David Wiliams (31).

Mount Juliet Golf Club in Kilkenny welcomed the society for the second day's competition, which resulted in Bryan Owen taking first place with 34 points followed by Clive Thomas (31) and David Williams (30).

The final day's action at Faithlegg Golf Club, acclaimed as the best golf resort in Munster, proved an excellent choice by tour organiser Mike King for the final round of this annual competition.

Martin Edwards rose to the occasion at this magnificent venue, taking first place with 32 points followed by Gareth Perkins who scored 31.

With all three rounds completed, the aggregate scores over the three days were announced, with Llancadle entrepreneur David Williams being declared the overall winner with 91 points.

Dan Jarvis finished runner up with 83, Bryan Owen third with 82 points and Jim Hayes fourth with 80.

T.McC

Vale Resort golf course celebrates 20th anniversary

THE Vale Resort is celebrating the 20th anniversary of its first championship golf course, the Lake Course, this October.

Unveiled in 1994, the 18-hole course has been played by more than 70,000 golfers in 20 years, including professionals such as Wales's Bradley Dredge and Ian Woosnam, as well as world-famous stars such as Gareth Bale, Sir Alex Ferguson and Bernard Gallagher.

The par-72 course has hosted four professional tournaments in the last 20 years, including Welsh professional championships and European Challenge Tour events.

Aptly named, the course is dominated by 12 lakes with water coming into play on 12 of its holes, including the impressive 20-acre lake running along the 14th hole. And the course's signature hole, the Island Green, is ranked as one of the Wales' top par four golf holes.

Clive Coombs, golf operations manager at the Vale Resort, said: "The Lake Course was the resort's first golf course and certainly set the benchmark of the high-standard of golf facilities at the Vale Resort.

"Over the last 20 years, the course hasn't changed much, but it has certainly matured. There were more than 20,000 trees planted when the course opened, and they were no more than 1ft high. The Lake Course now boasts impressive wooded areas, with some of our trees reaching more than 40ft in height, offering a sanctuary for wildlife including kites and hawks. Coupled with a mixture of wide and narrow fairways and challenging water obstacles, the course attracts thousands of golfers every year to the resort."

As part of the anniversary celebrations, the Vale Resort is offering reduced green fees, 20 per cent off shoes and clothing at resort's Pro Shop and £20 a buggy per round of golf throughout October.

New members can also enjoy their first six months golf membership for £200 if taken during the anniversary month.

Mr Coombs added: "The 20th anniversary of the Lake Course is a milestone; there aren't many golf clubs in Wales that have such an impressive history and we're inviting golfers, past and present, to celebrate with us this October."

Players of the resort's two championship winning golf courses, The Lake Course and the Wales National, can now access 3D flyover technology to watch the journey to the green through aerial shots of each hole, offering insight on how the course should be best played, before teeing off.

Golfers can also download the Vale Resort's bespoke golf app, which acts as a 3D-GPS distance device to help players improve their game.

For more information visit www.vale-hotel.com/Golf.

Burnett davies with Easton

Dinas Powys
029 2051 2222
5B Station Road
Dinas Powys
CF64 4DE

Barry
01446 737253
17 High Street
Barry
CF62 7EA

Cardiff
029 2062 1081
21 Penlline Road
Whitchurch
CF14 2AA

Email: info@bdeaston.com
Web: www.bdeaston.com

Llwyn David, Barry £99,950
Modern, ground floor, 2 double bedroom apartment with large living room, kitchen and bathroom. Telephone door entry system, off street parking & large communal garden. Stone's throw from the waterfront.

Trinity Street, Barry • £125,000
Traditional mid-terraced property, made famous by the filming of Gavin & Stacey. Two double bedrooms, 1st floor bathroom, living room, dining room, kitchen & pleasant rear garden/courtyard with southerly & views.

14 Minster Close, Barry • £177,500
4 bedroom, modern house with loft and garage conversions offering a fabulous master bedroom and second reception/playroom respectively. Also comprising a kitchen & breakfast room with patio doors, cloakroom/WC and family bathroom.

Porth-Y-Castell, Barry • £399,950
Well presented, 4 bed detached house enjoying an elevated position with panoramic sea views. Also comprising 3 receptions, kitchen, utility room & cloakroom plus driveway & garage.

Harding Close, Llantwit Major £135,000
Great opportunity to acquire a well presented, 3 bed house. Large, modern, kitchen/diner with french doors opening onto the rear patio, spacious living room with open stairs, 3 beds and bathroom.

Brooklands Terrace, Cardiff • £149,950
Immaculate, mid-terrace property with sizeable living room, large conservatory, well equipped kitchen, 2 bedrooms & bathroom. Also offering a pleasant, enclosed garden & brick pavior driveway.

Gower Cottage, The Green Cardiff £695,000
An exceptional, detached, 4 bedroom period cottage nestling on c.0.70 acres of mature, landscaped grounds. Discreetly located in a quiet, rural location yet within minutes of Cardiff & the M4 motorway.

St Donats Close Dinas Powys • £175,000
Well presented mid-terrace property with uPVC double glazing & gas fired heating. Large, open plan living & dining areas with French doors opening onto the garden. 3 bedrooms, bathroom, front/rear garden & garage.

Station Road Dinas Powys • £184,500
Stylish, top floor accommodation comprising entrance hallway, two double bedrooms (master with en-suite), bathroom, kitchen and impressive living area. Dedicated parking & communal garden.

8 Castle Drive Dinas Powys £185,000
Well proportioned, semi-detached house with long driveway, garage and enclosed rear garden. Large living area, open plan kitchen with dining area, 3 double bedrooms (2 doubles) and family bathroom.

Brooklands Dinas Powys • £224,500
2 double bedroom apartment presented in show home condition. Master bedroom with en-suite & dressing area, bathroom, kitchen and dining room plus galleried mezzanine.

St Ambrose Close Dinas Powys £237,500
Extended family home offering generous accommodation, including three reception rooms, large kitchen, conservatory, five bedrooms, family bathroom, driveway and pleasant, enclosed rear garden.

St Davids Avenue Dinas Powys • £232,000
Arranged over 4 storeys with 2 reception rooms, fantastic kitchen & breakfast room with spacious area for a table & chairs, 4 bedrooms (3 doubles) & 2 bathrooms. Driveway and enclosed rear garden.

Powys Place Dinas Powys • £249,950
Deceptively spacious, extended 4 bedroom house with open plan kitchen & breakfast room, large 'L' shaped conservatory plus attic conversion. Generous plot with large south facing garden.

Millbrook Heights Dinas Powys • £255,000
3 bedroom semi-detached house enjoying an elevated position with spectacular views. Porch, cloakroom, kitchen, living room & dining room with French doors opening onto an impressive, balcony. Landscaped south facing garden, single garage and driveway.

Cae'r Odyn, Dinas Powys • £269,500
Extended and immaculately presented 4 bedroom house forming part of the popular, Southra Park estate and with access onto and views over open playing fields.

Britway Road Dinas Powys • £330,000
Period cottage with 3 receptions, open plan kitchen & breakfast room, laundry room & cloakroom together with 3 double bedrooms and bathroom. Beautiful south facing garden & driveway parking for 2 cars.

Ty Caredig, Old Farm Mews, Dinas Powys £445,000
Contemporary new build offering up to 3/4 bedrooms, garaging for 2 cars & boasting private & enclosed outside space including a courtyard, large roof terrace & balcony off the master bedroom.

Derlwyn, Cross Common Dinas Powys £435,000
Fabulous 4/5 bed dormer bungalow offering versatile accommodation and enjoying a large corner plot. Driveway parking, garage and immaculate grounds.

Hendref, Park Road Dinas Powys • £500,000
Four bedroom, Edwardian residence. Master bedroom with French doors, balcony and far reaching views plus 3 reception rooms, the principle of which enjoys exceptional proportions. Private garden and detached garage.

Turnpike Close Dinas Powys • £550,000
Contemporary, 4 bedroom, detached house forming part of an exclusive development. Master bedroom with en-suite, 3 reception rooms (principle with balcony & far reaching views), kitchen & breakfast room, double garage, workshop & landscaped grounds.

Cross Farm, Dinas Powys • £725,000
Truly unique Welsh Longhouse with origins dating back to the15th century. Over 2,500 sq ft of family living accommodation including 4 / 5 bedrooms and 4 reception rooms.

Westwood Court, Penarth • £119,500
3rd (top) floor retirement apartment comprising a living room, kitchen, double bedroom and bathroom together with pleasant views, resident lounges, guest suite for visiting family and friends, well maintained gardens and parking

Elderberry House Barry • £459,500
Detached house with double garage, driveway & pleasant grounds. 3 reception rooms, kitchen / breakfast room, utility room & cloakroom plus 4 bedrooms (master with dressing room & en-suite) and bathroom.

Cwm Ciddy Cottage, Rhoose • £435,000
Grade II Listed cottage with separate c.2 acre paddock and stable block. 2 principle receptions, study, kitchen, utility and cloakroom plus 3 double bedrooms and family bathroom. Large grounds with garage / outbuilding.

Hayes Point, Sully £169,500
Beautifully appointed ground floor 2 bedroom apartment forming part of the Hayes Point development Master bedroom with en-suite and hi-spec kitchen with granite work surfaces.

Stradlin Close, Sully £250,000
Detached, 2 bedroom bungalow with superb, full width conservatory. Recently extended to offer an exceptional family room (over 300 sq ft / 28 sq m). Also boasting a large enclosed garden with sun terrace & driveway.

Cog Road, Sully £299,950
4 bedroom, detached residence superbly presented throughout & comprising 2 receptions, kitchen, dining room, utility room, cloakroom & large conservatory. Also 4 bedrooms, bathroom, pleasant front & rear gardens plus driveway for 4 cars.

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Bridgend companies scoop top awards

COMPANIES in Bridgend County Borough have been recognised at the Bridgend Business Forum Awards 2014 in conjunction with Berry Smith Lawyers.

Winners in each of the 11 categories, along with the overall Bridgend Business of the Year 2014, selected by a panel of independent judges, were revealed during the ceremony and gala dinner at the Coed-y-Mwstwr Hotel, Bridgend on September 19.

Opened by the First Minister, Carwyn Jones, AM for Bridgend, the awards attracted over 200 business people who were keen to celebrate the achievements of some of the county borough's leading organisations.

ROCKWOOL Ltd was awarded the coveted title of 'Bridgend Business of the Year 2014' after earlier picking up the accolade of 'Manufacturing Business of the Year – over £1m turnover'.

The company which has been based in the county borough for over 35 years, is the world's largest producer of stone wool insulation and the second largest insulation producer globally.

The ROCKWOOL group has annual sales of Euro 1.8 billion and employs over 9,300 staff in more than 33 countries. It has 22 factories around the world, including the site at Pencoed.

Rory Moss, managing director of ROCKWOOL Ltd said: "Winning these awards really helps us to celebrate the progress we've made in product development despite the tough trading conditions of the last few years. By continuing to invest in our people and innovation, we are in a great position to grow as the construction industry recovers and create new jobs in the local area. We were delighted to receive these awards and would like to thank the Bridgend Business Forum."

ROCKWOOL also sponsored the 'Award for Creativity and Innovation in Business' which was won by Wales Interactive Ltd, a successful games developer based in Pencoed.

Alison Hoy, Chair of Bridgend Business Forum, who presented the 'Bridgend Business of the Year' award said: "Congratulations to all the winners and shortlisted businesses. The judges were very impressed with the standard of entries and selected winners which demonstrated going the extra mile to achieve their business goals."

The awards were also supported by Bridgend County Borough Council and attended by the Leader, Chief Executive and Mayor of the council.

Council Leader, Coun Mel Nott, said: "Our businesses are the backbone of our economy and we are committed to supporting them and promoting enterprise in the county borough."

"I'm proud that the council can play its part, through the valuable work of the Bridgend Business Forum to provide the platform to showcase the fantastic talent and skill we have in our business community.

Alison Hoy and Carwyn Jones at the awards.

BBC TV presenter Sian Lloyd hosted the ceremony.

The winners in each category were:'Business Support Organisation of the Year' – Business in Focus Ltd; 'Business Student of the Year' – Edward Shorney, Go Rookie Ltd; 'Start-up Business of the Year' – Young's Spinal Health; 'Independent Retailer of the Year' – Cover-Up (Ebook Accessories Ltd); 'Entrepreneur of the Year' – Rayner Davies, A&R Contract Cleaning Specialists Ltd; 'Service Business of the Year' – ASW Property Services Ltd; 'Manufacturing Business of the Year – under £1m t/o'– Partspeed Ltd; 'Manufacturing Business of the Year – over £1m t/o' – ROCKWOOL Ltd; 'Award for Creativity/Innovation in Business' – Wales Interactive Ltd; 'Social Enterprise of the Year' – Emmaus South Wales; 'Bridgend Business of the Year 2014' – ROCKWOOL Ltd.

PICTURED (left to right): BBC TV presenter Sian Lloyd with winners Rory Moss, Shirley Whitcombe, Bob Perry of Rockwool Ltd and Alison Hoy, chair of Bridgend Business Forum.

The date is announced for Reindeer Parade!

by GEM REPORTER

COWBRIDGE Reindeer Parade will go ahead on Sunday, November 30, quashing rumours that it might not take place.

The event was confirmed by the chairman of Cowbridge Chamber of Trade, Alun John, speaking to The GEM on Tuesday this week.

Alun said: "Plans are well under way for November 30 despite rumours to the contrary.

"This year there will be even more going on round the town.

"Apart from the parade and normal entertainment, there will also be a Farmers' Market although the location has yet to be decided."

Organisers of the Reindeer Parade and festive lights plan to do Christmas trees in front of businesses as in past years.

Alun said: "All those businesses who want a Christmas tree should get in touch with either me at Arthur John, or Simon Leadbitter at Simon's Cycles."

If an individual business has an external socket, organisers can plug tree lights in; if not, it is up to a business to arrange its own link up.

If a business belongs to the chamber of trade, it gets a tree free – for others, Christmas trees will be available at a fee to be arranged.

A nativity parade will also be a part of the Reindeer Parade celebrations thanks to help from the local 'Churches Together'.

Mansion tax not just for the rich

WE don't need to worry about the mansion tax in Bridgend and Porthcawl do we? After all, there are very few houses worth £2m or more?

Think again: here are four reasons why the mansion tax proposed by Labour is very bad for Bridgend and Porthcawl.

Firstly, does anybody really think that a tax that starts on properties of £2m will stay at that level?

Many taxes start as a tax on the rich and end up being a tax on all of us. Because many old people will be asset rich but income poor, this is a tax on getting old – and that's going to happen to all of us.

It is perfectly reasonable to suppose that a mansion tax will depress home values at the top end of the market. If this happens, it is bound to cause a ripple effect through the whole market. Your own house would be worth less as a result.

A mansion tax will become very difficult to define with all sorts of exceptions and anti-avoidance measures being necessary. Soon it will morph into a wealth tax.

The mansion tax will drive away wealth creators. We all know really that driving away the wealthy is not the way to make the rest of us richer.

Meirion Jenkins, Pen-y-Fai (Conservative Parliamentary candidate for Bridgend).

Quiz League's five testers

HERE are this week's testers:

1. Which famous Labour politician of the 20th century once declared "he would choose Lord Lubberduck of Limehouse if ever he was forced to accept a peerage"?

2. With his distinctive red hair, which Italian composer born in 1678 was known as the 'Red Priest'?

3. Which future US world heavyweight boxing champion was disqualified in a bout at the 1972 Olympic trials?

4. The VW Beetle was designed out of whose design studios in Stuttgart in the 1930s?

A Rudge (for Quiz League).

Answers:
1. Clement Allee.
2. Vivaldi.
3. Larry Holmes.
4. Ferdinand Porsche.

Rotary bake-off raises funds for pollution battle

THE Rotary Club of Bridgend recently held a fun bake-off in the Blandy Hall, Laleston, to raise funds for the supply of LifeStraw®, a portable water filter.

These will be distributed to vulnerable ethnic groups in developing countries. The LifeStraw® Filter effectively removes all bacteria and parasites, responsible for causing common diarrhoeal diseases, from the most polluted water sources.

A gold rosette and one prize of a £25 cookware voucher, sponsored by Procook and Tesco, were awarded to each of the winners in three categories: large cakes, Gemma Brooks; small cakes (plate of six),Diane Ward. Cakes with an international theme; Doreen Watts. The overall winner, best in show was Gemma Brooks, who received a trophy vase. Each winner also received a specially commissioned Rotary bake-off apron.

A special award was presented to young Morgan, the grandson of Rotary past president Michael Lewis, for his expertise in producing a mouth-watering plate of small cakes.

The show was competently judged by Carol Moon. Silver rosettes were awarded to Juliet McIver and Julie Williams, with one unclaimed. Bronze rosettes were awarded to Kyra Lewis, Gaynor Davies and Reverend Mike Lewis.

Rotarians Haydn and Nick, from the Rotary Club of Brynmawr, gave an impressive impromptu demonstration of the LifeStraw® that really brought home to all present the purpose of the evening.

The Rotary Club of Bridgend would like to thank all those who entered cakes in the bake-off, plus our sponsors and judge Carol Moon.

For further details of the LifeStraw® Filter, contact Judy McCarthy on 01656 861984, or email jr.mc@virgin.net.

John Ward

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CHAMBER OF TRADE TO THE RESCUE OF AN ORCHESTRA

PORTHCAWL Community Orchestra agreed to play at the town museum's Great War centenary event, but had no public liability insurance, which was needed for them to play in the John Street bandstand.

The museum, via Coun David Newton Williams, then approached Porthcawl Chamber of Trade, who agreed to support Porthcawl Community Orchestra with a donation to cover the cost of the insurance.

Seventeen-year-old Jack Bridger, the orchestra's leader, composer and arranger, received the vital documentation (above) from David Newton Williams and Chris Smart of the Chamber at their Sunday night practice session.

Recalling the Knights Templar

AT its meeting on September 16 in the Bear Hotel, Cowbridge, Pontfaen Probus Club welcomed the return of Dr Viv Thomas who told us more of the history of the Knights Templar of England and Wales at our September meeting.

Apparently, the Order established few settlements in Wales but we learnt a little of one believed to have been established in the 13th century at Llanmadoc on the Gower, bringing with them their vows of chastity, poverty and obedience.

We learnt a little more of the early contributions of the order to modern values and diverse establishments, such as the health service and banking.

As regards settlements in England, the present writer was intrigued to learn of the importance to the order of the Hertfordshire town of Baldock, near his home as a teenager, and of its link by name with Baghdad.

For more information, contact secretary Colin Wilson on 01656 860498. **GH**

'Team Running with Nancy' raise awareness of CF

TEAM Running with Nancy (TRWN) which is inspired by little Nancy Thomas from Llantwit Major and supports charities dealing with cystic fibrosis, has enjoyed a varied year of running, cycling and swimming.

Nancy's mother Lucy explained: "Supporters have covered hundreds of miles in training and competitions to raise awareness of the disease.

"The events have been all over the country in all kinds of weather and the dedication has been unwavering.

"Kristie and Tina ran the Great North Run, Gary Davies is now an 'Ironman' after completing Ironman Wales which is a 2.3 mile swim followed by 112 mile cycle, and finishing with a marathon – an amazing achievement off the back of him completing 24 marathons in 12 months.

"Sally Owen took the first ladies to the Cardiff Love Run. Lucy Clare and Sarah took part in Trekkfest Peak District, a distance of 30 miles. Gareth Payne has taken medals in MB enduros this year and the junior section of TRWN has run in the Cardiff Bay and Kidney Wales 10Ks."

In total, since April this year, TRWN has taken part in over 30 events, with Nancy and junior members taking part too.

When Team Running with Nancy was first formed, dad Lyn had problems taking his daughter along in her buggy with race organisers citing 'health and safety' as the reason.

Fortunately, those issues have been resolved and Lyn continues to run with Nancy in her buggy in 10k races with her nagging: "Run faster daddy!"

Nancy recently had an award presented to her by Welsh Commonwealth gymnast Frankie Jones at the Kidney Wales 10k, and some of Nancy's friends Josh, Mia, Anuerian, Evan and Eloise recently held a sale of loom bands to raise money for the cystic fibrosis cause.

Lucy explained: "We continue to raise money for research into cystic fibrosis via the UK Cystic Fibrosis Gene Therapy consortium but consider that raising awareness of CF is as much a part of our ethos.

"TRWN continues to amaze us as people are always asking to run with us and we feel honoured knowing the hard work that goes into training.

"Taking part in events can be expensive and tends to add up as most events have a minimum £20 entry fee, so we want to thank everyone from the bottom of our hearts. Knowing that people care, and showing they care can be two different things when times are tough.

"We are never short of that kind of support. Cuddy Charitable Trust continues to offer us its support which is invaluable when we are running a family alongside all our other interests and commitments.

"Nancy continues to remain as well as we can keep her and is a funny, incorrigible and mischievous three year old. She is now in nursery and loving it and attends gymnastics at Vale Gymnastic with Nathan Mullet and swims at Atlantic College with the students.

"We encourage her to be as active as possible and try to vary her activities to keep her horizons as broad as possible."

See information on Cystic Fibrosis and TRWN on social media: www.facebook.com/pages/Running-With-Nancy; Twitter TRWNancy@TRWNancy; www.runningwithnancy.com.

Pencoed battle their way through to second round

PENCOED moved through to the second round of the Swalec Plate competition with this hard-fought victory over their Division One East Central opponents Llantwit Fardre.

The home side started well, taking the game to the opposition before centre Lloyd Ryland split the midfield defence, and a well-timed pass to the supporting Tom Cross saw the full back racing in at the posts, Marc Davies added the extras.

Pencoed soon increased their lead, young scrum half Rhys Clarke, moving the ball wide around halfway, found Rhys Pope and the back row forward broke two tackles in a touchline run before finding Aaron Songhurst on his inside, and the wing threequarter raced over from 30 metres; Davies converted for a 14-0 lead.

Flanker Marcus Cordle then opened the visitors' account following a close up drive, before Pencoed got their third try of the half. Turning possession over in their own 22, the ball broke for Songhurst who put his head back and outpaced his pursuers over 80 metres for a breathtaking try, which Davies converted.

The visitors' outside half Elliot Davies then reduced the home lead with two penalties, before opposite number Davies kicked a penalty and Pencoed led 24-11 at the interval.

Davies extended the home lead with a further penalty before the visitors replied from a close up lineout through Matthew Hollis.

Pencoed's response was immediate, a sweeping move through several pairs of hands saw them cross at the posts; unfortunately for the home side, match official Mr Hoole declared a pass had gone forward.

A seven-pointer at this juncture would have made things a lot easier for the home side, and as events unfolded in the final 15 minutes, Pencoed had to defend for their lives.

Picking up two yellow cards and with the scoreline 27-16, it now became a case of survival for the home side with wave after wave of attacks from the visitors. Pencoed skipper Keiron Moore led by example with a huge defensive hit under his own posts.

Almost inevitably against depleted home ranks, Llantwit Fardre got a third try through Scott Burrows, converted by Davies, and with Pencoed leading 27-23 in injury time, the home support supplemented their team's superb defensive commitment to deservedly take their place in the draw for the next round.

The match sponsors chose Rhys Clarke as their Pencoed man of the match, with Rhys Pope chosen as the supporters' equivalent.

On Saturday, Pencoed return to Division Two West Central League action against Maesteg Celtic at the Recreation Ground, 2.30pm kick off.

On the day, a depleted Pencoed Phoenix were no match for the National Premiership Champions, formerly Neath Athletic RFC, now playing out of Skewen RFC.

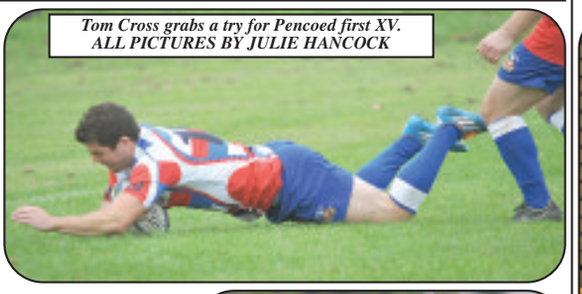
The visitors, who included a number of Welsh internationals and Ospreys regional players, ran out comprehensive 70-6 winners. In a brave home effort ,Amy Stevens and Sam Trickey were chosen as Phoenix best forward and back respectively, Trickey kicking two penalty goals.

On Sunday Pencoed Phoenix travel to Brecon to meet Gwernyfed in the Premiership.

Earlier in the day the junior Phoenix gave a far more experienced Whitland side one of their most difficult matches in the last three years, a quote attributed to an experienced Whitland official.

Talented Phoenix scrum half Kayleigh Powell notched a hat-trick in the 15-27 defeat to the Pembrokeshire side which included a number of Scarlets regional players.

Pencoed youth went down by 5-19 in the Ospreys League against a mature Nantyffyllon side. On Saturday, Pencoed make the short journey to Bridgend Athletic in the Ospreys League. **TR**



Tom Cross grabs a try for Pencoed first XV. ALL PICTURES BY JULIE HANCOCK

Joshua Halse proves to be a sturdy defender.

Hat trick hero Kayleigh Powell was the star of the show for the junior Phoenix.

Hannah Brunskill claims a lineout for Pencoed Phoenix.

LATEST NEWS FROM PORTHCAWL BRIDGE CLUB

PICTURED: Janet Richards, Connie Dick and Dil Evans (tournament organiser).

PORTHCAWL Bridge Club's Duplicate Championship Pairs was held in September with Janet Richards and Connie Dick triumphing in a closely fought contest – it all depended on the last deal.

Congratulations go to both players. Janet showed her bridge versatility as she won last year's event with a different partner.

The latest results are Saturday, September 13: First, Colin and Hazel Heard; second, Janet Richards and Sheila Storer.

Monday, September 15: First, Marian Evans and Gwen Thomas; second, Emer Disley and Pat Haworth.

Thursday, September 18: (Club Championship pairs for the Sid Gibbins Salver): First, Janet Richards and Connie Dick; second, Keith Davison and Tony Haworth.

Saturday, September 20: First, Maurice Harris and Pat Haworth; second, Terry Dolan and Kate Craven.

Monday, September 22: First, Eleanor Jones and Marie Hartland; second, Sue Anthony and Betty Longley.

Thursday, September 24: First, Trish Saunders and Sue Anthony; second, Keith Davison and Tony Haworth.

The club meets three times a week, Saturday and Thursday at the Awel-y-Mor centre, and Monday at the Glamorgan Holiday Hotel 7pm-10.15 pm. Visitors are welcome at any time. To contact the club, call Trish on 01656 785794.

TH

Junior rugby teams face a stern test of character

AWAY to Nantyffyllon is never an easy fixture for any team and it was going to be a stern test of character for the Porthcawl under-9s.

After a long wait before playing our opponents due to them playing another team, the game got under way a few minutes before high noon.

Nantyffyllon, already in battle mode, set about Porthcawl with some gusto from the off.

Tries were being run in far too easily and halfitime was welcomed with a sigh of relief.

In the second half, Porthcawl engaged much earlier in the tackle area, held a much higher defensive line and dug in as a team.

It wasn't such an easy ride for Nantyffyllon in the second half as they were matched player for player. The half ended 3-3, giving Nanty a deserved 8-4 win. It was a great game that just got better as it went on.

Max Shirley, who was on the end of a bad tackle, came back onto the pitch and made a right nuisance of himself, tackling and making some very good ground with the ball, and he was named player of the day.

Try scorers - Max Williams, Dylan Bell, Will Thomas-Parker, A N Other (TBC).

JP

The sun was shining again for trip to Nantymoel, as Porthcawl under-8s played the Valley Ravens and Treherbert.

Ravens last week won a tournament which showed early on with good angled running into space, but for the first five minutes of each half Porthcawl's defence was working well, tagging them out on a couple of occasions, but the team's concentration and alignment slowly faded.

Spaces were left out wide which the well-drilled Ravens exploited. Although the score may tell one story, the only difference between the teams was Ravens' defence, as Porthcawl matched them in attack. Final score - Ravens 7, Porthcawl 3.

The under-8s showed lots of positives throughout the game, with some strong running into space and good passing, bringing uthemback into the game, which was pleasing for the coaches as this was a key focus of training.

For the second week running, a debutant player showed the way, getting stuck in and closing down the attackers and coming out top tagger - well done Taylor.

The second award today went to Zane, the clubman award, for demonstrating skills that coaches have asked him to do - run at space and be more vocal in defence - and he did these very well.

Dewi scored two long distance tries showing his sidesteps and Joel did what the coaches have asked him, to be more vocal and track the ball, which paid dividends with a try in the corner.

He waited a whole season to get off the mark last year so a good start for Joel.

Other notable performances were by Theo running in three tries showing his searing pace and his sharp sidesteps, which we want to see more of this year, and was rewarded with top try scorer trophy - well done.

Dylan was notable for his evasive running and also trying to take a pass running at full speed which could have been the team try of the day.

Ryan and Brody both ran great angles and took the team forward not backwards or sideways - well done both.

Lewis was totally focused and scored two brilliant tries and earned the outstanding effort award.

In the second game against Treherbert, Porthcawl picked up the pace, scoring three tries in first half through Rose, Dewi and Lewis, and four in second half through Ryan and Theo (three tries). Final score 3-7 to Porthcawl.

There was good tagging by all, top tag went to Tyler Jones with Lex, Dexter, Dewi, Lewis and Samuel not far behind.

Top try scorer was Theo with three, other scorers Dewi, Lewis, Joel, Rose, Ryan, while the clubman outstanding effort for team went to Lewis, and clubman making a difference went to Zane.

RH

Annabell strikes karate gold in London

ANNABELL STACEY of Cowbridge Comprehensive represented Karate Wakes governing body at the British International Karate Open Championships at Sports Dock, London, on September 13.

Annabell, coached by Stephen Wellington and Welsh coach Gareth Reynolds, took individual kumite gold under-12 girls' open grade, and then a team silver in the girls team of Annabell, Ella Forts-Smith and Alisha Willey.

On Sunday, September 28, Annabell fought in a girls' open grade under 12s to take kumite gold for her club 'Ken bu Kan' in a Welsh karate league championship at Penarth, with Welsh team mate Ella of Vale Karate also in the medals.

We welcome your sports reports, news and items of interest - email: *gemeditorial@tindlenews.co.uk*

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Moving sale Llantwit Major Various Furniture and other items
01446 792801
bevjager@iinet.net.au 39

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07973 939546 (Buyer collect) 38/39

2 Bar Stools (Gas) £40 ono. **Washing Machine W/Dryer** £60 ono. **TV Table** Glass black £15.
07973 939546 (Can deliver) 38/39

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Anniversaries

Happy Silver Wedding Anniversary
25
Teresa & Stuart Jones
on 7th October
Congratulations Mum & Dad
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Aaron & Bethan xxx

25th Wedding Anniversary

Teresa & Stuart Jones (Nee Tyrrell)
on 7th October
Congratulations to you both, love Mum & Dad, Wendy, Deb & Lee, Dave & Nicola, Angela, Emily, Joseph and Aunty Sandra xxx

Family Notices

SQD. LDR. ARTHUR (PHIL) PHILLIPS *RAF RETD*

Passed away on September 22, 2014. Beloved husband of Kathy and loving father to Suzy, Lindy and David.

Resting at W.A. Brown & Son, College Street, Llantwit Major until the funeral service on Wednesday, 8 October 2014 in Coychurch Crematorium at 2.15pm. Family flowers only, but donations may be made to British Heart Foundation c/o the Funeral Director (cheques only please).

RAWLINGS Dorothy

Peacefully at home on 19th September 2014, Dorothy, aged 94 years of Cowbridge and formerly of Bridgend. Dearly loved wife of the late Edward (Ted), loving mother of Christopher and Helen, mother-in-law of Susan and Peter and a much loved grandmother and great grandmother.

Resting at W.A. Brown & Sons Funeral Home, College St, Llantwit Major until the funeral on Friday, 3rd October 2014, service and cremation at 11.30am at Coychurch Crematorium where family and friends please meet. Family flowers only - donations if desired to Alzheimer's Disease Society c/o W.A. Brown.

WARD Maureen Joan

Peacefully on Saturday, September 27th, Maureen, much loved wife of Alan, loving mother, grandmother and great grandmother.

She will be sadly missed by all family and friends.

Funeral service at Coychurch Crematorium on Monday, October 6th at 1.15pm. Family flowers only please.

EVANS Lloyd Trigg

Peacefully on Friday, September 26th, Lloyd, much loved son of Tony and Lynne, brother of Rhian and Rhys.

He will be sadly missed by all family and friends.

Funeral service at Coychurch Crematorium on Monday, October 6th at 1.15pm. Family flowers only please.

Richard William Morgan (Richie)

Very much loved and respected by his brother, sisters, nieces and nephews, greatly missed by us all.

'Those we love don't go away, they walk beside us every day. Unseen, unheard, but always near. Still loved, still missed and very dear. Forever with us.'

BOWEN Thomas Vescey (Tom)

Peacefully at the Waverly Care Home Penarth. Thomas (Tom), devoted husband of the late Barbara, loving father to Nigel, loving grandfather to Darryl and Kaylee. Tom will be sadly missed by his sister in law Valarie and sister Jean, and all his family and friends.

Resting at Park Independent Funeral Directors, 7 Tynewydd Road, Barry until the service at Barry Cemetery Chapel on Thursday 9th October at 2pm, followed by internment at Barry Cemetery at 2.30pm. Flowers may be sent to the Funeral Directors.

'Woggy'

Warren Pemberton
7th October 2012
Still in our conversations and thoughts
Fond memories never fade

OWENS William Raymond (Ray)

Sheila, David, Gareth and Jude would like to thank all family and friends for their cards and kind messages of sympathy.

We would also like to thank so many of you who attended Ray's funeral and for the very generous donations to Marie Curie Holme Towers in his memory.

Special thanks also to Robert and his staff at A.G. Adams & Son Funeral Home for their care and support at this sad time.

GREGORY Arthur

Peacefully on September 15th at Waverley Care Home, Penarth, Arthur, formerly of Llantrithyd, will be sadly missed.

Funeral service at St Illtyd's Church, Llantrithyd on Wednesday, October 8th, 2014 at 2pm, followed by interment. Any enquiries please contact Thomas Brothers 01446 775681.

WALLIS Keith William

Peacefully after a long illness bravely borne, Keith, much loved son, father, grandfather and brother.

He will be sadly missed by all that knew him.

Funeral service at St James' Church, Wick on Friday, October 10th, 2014 at 2pm, followed by interment. Flowers may be sent to J.R. & M.F. David, Ewenny Road, St Brides Major, CF32 0SB.

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xxxxx

Happy 18th Birthday
to our darling
Chantelle Irene Williams
(Chant) on October 1 2014.

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Cowbridge Comprehensive School's sporting roll of honour (selected highlights)

TRACK ATHLETICS

NASUWT Welsh Plate, Welsh Champions

TEAM: Laura Annetts, Jordan Meek, Jessica Wadey, Meriel Clode, Megan Hodgson, Tirion Evans, Ffion McNamee, Sarah Jones.

70m hurdles – Megan Hodgson – Winner and Plate; High jump – Megan Hodgson – Winner and Equal Plate; 4x100m relay – Winners and Plate; 800m – Jessica Wadey – Winner; Long jump – Jordan Meek – runner up; Javelin – Tirion Evans – runner up;

100m – Laura Annetts – runner up; 200m – Jordan Meek – runner up.

County Representation:

SENIOR boys 100m, 200m, 4x100m and combined events – Iori Moore. Under-17 boys 100m, 200m and 4x100m – Kristian Jones. Under-17 boys high jump and triple jump – Tom Trotman. Under-17 combined events – Brooke Langton Cryer; under-17 girls high jump and combined events – Niamh Galton; under-17 girls javelin – Sian Smith.

Under-15 girls pole vault and combined events – Megan Hodgson; under-15 girls pole vault – Tirion Evans; under-15 girls 300m – Jessica Wadey; under-15 girls combined events – Jordan Meek.

International Representation (SIAB):

UNDER-17 boys 100m, 200m and 4x100m – Kristian Jones. Under-17 boys high jump – Tom Trotman. Under-17 girls high jump – Niamh Galton .

BASKETBALL

Vale of Glamorgan Representation:

UNDER-14 – Beth Edwards; Jessica Gregory; Emily Gregory; Ella Katherine Jones; Iwan Ap-John Williams; Tom Ap-John Williams; Rory James; Jamie Owen; Will Marsden.

Under-18 – Matthew Roberts; Alex Greaves.

CROSS COUNTRY

County Representation:

Middle girls – Nadine James, Cerys Bradshaw.

Junior girls – Jessica Wadey; Selina Radcliffe, Georgia Armitage, Aimee Jones, Meriel Clode, Emily Jenkins.

Year-7 girls – Sophie Hawkins, Charlotte Tudor, Beth Edwards, Rebecca Murray, Eve Bird, Eve Mordecai, Eve Demmer, Alice Coe.

Middle boys – Alex Love.

Junior boys – Sam Corkill.

Year-7 boys – Jack Tudor, Ben Batten, Morgan Heselton, Will O'Connor.

FOOTBALL

County Representation:

Under-14 – Rhydian Williams.

Under-13 – Alex Brookes-Bent, Logan Roach, Cameron Gauci, Amy Williams.

Under-12 – Sophie Hawkins, Jake Thomas.

GOLF

Under-18 Glamorgan county team – Matthew Roberts.

GYMNASTICS

County Representation:

Under-14 – Megan Hodgson, Tom Wright.

Under-19 – Mia Sexton, Cameron Davies.

HOCKEY

County Representation:

Under-16 – Ellie Eddy-Williams, Jemma Viney.

NETBALL

County Representation:

Under-14 – Annabel Hegarty, Selina Radcliffe.

Under-16 – Megan McNamee, Kim Jerwood.

U18 – Lydia Hitchings.

Welsh Development: High Performance HUBs – Selina Radcliffe, Annabel Hegarty, Lydia Hitchings, Kim Jerwood.

RUGBY

County Representation:

Dewar Shield – Cai Evans, Harry Hopkins, Daniel Bunney, James Holder.

Blues Development – Ben Jones, Joe Davies, James Bennett, Tom Trotman, Tom Evans.

Under-16 Cardiff Blues – Craig Boxall, Rian Thomas, Hywel Williams, Tom Lucas.

Under-18 Cardiff Blues – Jack Davies, James Whittingham, Harri Thomas, Harry Collier, Aldi Coverdale.

Welsh Crawshays under-19 – Harri Thomas, Josh Thomas, Tom Higgins, Nick Griffiths, Dan Holder, Llwyd Elms.

TENNIS:

County Representation:

Under-12 – Will Marsden.

INTERNAL SCHOOL CUPS

CRICKET

Richard Llewellyn Memorial – Sam Wood.

ENDEAVOUR

Gwyn James Cup (year-11) – Evie Williams, Jack Anderson.

HUGH WILLIAMS OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTION TO SCHOOL SPORT

Boys – Todd Wilcox; girls – Caitlin Allin.

HUGH WILLIAMS CHWARAE TEG AWARD (SPORTSMANSHIP)

Boys – Tom Higgins; girls – Bethan Sloan.

Gardener Cup (year-8 rugby) – Reuben Williams

Kim Newton Cup (year-8 athletics) – Jessica Wadey

Gary Jackson Cup (year-8 male all-rounder) – Sam Green.

Jan Clutterbuck Cup (year-8 female all-rounder) – Meriel Clode, Megan Hodgson.

Thomas Brother (player of the year) – Jack Davies.

SKIING

Alliance Cup (senior) – Harri Thomas.

Richard Llewellyn Cup (year 9 and 10) – Ben Terry.

Pitman Cup (year-8 – Alex Brookes-Bent.

THE ROTARY CLUB ENDEAVOUR AWARDS

Year-7 girl – Ella Katherine Jones; year-7 boy – Will O'Connor.

INTERNATIONAL ROLL OF HONOUR

ATHLETICS

Wales under-17 100m, 200m and 4X100m relay – Kristian Jones.

Wales under-17 high jump – Tom Trotman.

Wales under-17 and Under-18 high jump –Niamh Galton.

BASKETBALL

Wales under-15 squad – James Large.

Wales under-14 squad – Beth Edwards.

Wales under-14 squad – Jessica Gregory.

Wales under-14 squad – Emily Gregory.

CRICKET

Wales under-17 squad – Oliver Pike.

Wales under-17 squad – Laurie Thomas.

Senior Welsh Minor Counties – Todd Wilcox.

Senior Welsh Minor Counties – Sam Wood.

CROSS COUNTRY

Wales Junior girls cross country team – Jessica Wadey.

DANCE

Wales under-18 squad and freestyle world champion – Megan Watson.

FENCING

Wales under-16 squad and UK School Games – Lauren Oakman.

GOLF

England under-16 golf team – Grace Connelly.

Wales under-18 squad – Kyle Harman.

GYMNASTICS

Wales junior rhythmic gymnastics team – Freya Evans.

Wales grade 3 acro gymnastics team – Nia Davies.

HOCKEY

Under-16 Wales squad and UK school games – Rhys Bradshaw.

HORSE RIDING

Wales Mini's mounted games team – Eve Mordecai.

Wales under-12 show jumping team (Mini Major) – Stephanie Brownbill.

Wales under-17 mounted games team and world individual championships – Sophia Harpin.

ICE HOCKEY

South West England and Wales under-13 – Ben Morgan.

SQUASH

Wales under-15 squad – Kate Workman.

SKATING

Senior Wales and Great Britain performance squad – Sarah Lewis.

SURFING

Wales under-16 squad – Cieran Hughes.

SWIMMING

Wales Commonwealth Games swim team (50m, 100, and 200m breast stroke) – Bethan Sloan.

Wales under16 squad and Celtic Tri Nations – Caitlin Hall.

TAE KWON DO

Junior Wales squad – Bethany Burt.

TETRATHLON

Wales under-15 Tetrathlon team – Mali Howell, Joel Hill.

JIU JITSU

Wales under-18 squad – Toby Walker, Robert Murray.

JUDO

Wales under-16 and Great Britain under-16 squad – Jack Anderson.

LIFEGUARDS

Under-14 SLSA Wales squad – Jessica Wadey.

Under-16 SLSA Wales squad – William Parker.

MODERN PENTATHLON

Great British Biathlon squad – Seren Allin.

NETBALL

Wales under-17 squad – Kim Jerwood, Lydia Hitchings.

RUBGY

Wales under-16 squad – Tom Lucas.

Wales under-18 squad – James Whittingham.

SAILING

Wales and Great Britain under-18 squad – Jemma Viney, Matthew Viney.

Wales under-15 squad – Ben Roberts, Olly Reynolds.

SHOOTING

Wales under-21 junior international pistol team – Mali Howell.

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Wins for Penarth hockey teams

PENARTH Hockey Club recorded its first wins of the new Davis Wood Hockey League season, with the firsts claiming a comfortable victory and the 2nd XI bouncing back from a tough opening weekend.

Penarth visited their old stomping ground at Leckwith Stadium to take on a Cardiff Medics side that caused a few problems last season, but found their hosts to be in accommodating mood.

The Bears started well and established their superiority by coming out on top of the opening encounters, but it still took a while for the scoreboard to show that same advantage.

The visitors duly opened the scoring midway through the opening half as a superb pass from Sam Docherty found Phil Lane, who then beat two men before squaring the ball for Matt Birch to produce a trademark slapshot to fire past the hapless Medics' 'keeper.

As the half went on, Penarth took greater control of procession, with goalkeeper Mark Harris barely getting a touch. Unable to add to their goal tally, however, the first half closed with the score remaining at 1-0.

After the break, however, Penarth wasted little time in wrapping up all three points, with Lane doubling the lead with a fantastic solo effort.

That spurred the visitors to greater heights and the game was finally put to bed after Birch won a penalty scorner and Chris Baker drag-flicked the resulting opportunity past the 'keeper and into the top corner.

There will sterner tests of Penarth's ability in the coming weeks, but the Vale side will be happy to have got off to a winning start with the expected scoring leaders finding the net early on.

Welcoming back a few regulars unavailable for the first game of the season, Penarth A side presented a stronger front for their opponents, but still appeared to be suffering a hangover from the 0-6 reverse against Llanishen & Caerphilly as they took time to find their stride.

The breakthrough, when it eventually came, followed a quick passing break down the left flank, with Dave Watkins feeding Tom Parkinson the final ball to slot home.

With Penarth in the ascendancy, the pressure moved firmly to the Neath end, and the home side's second penalty corner of the game quickly added to the advantage as Craig Llewellyn found Watkins on the near post and the veteran forward finished deftly on the reverse stick.

A two-goal cushion, while comfortable, was never going to be enough at the half, with Penarth well aware that Neath only needed the slightest opportunity to strike back. Late pressure – and a series of penalty corners – at the end of the first half showed what the visitors were capable of and it did not take long for the gap to be halved as some poor defending allowed them to pull a goal back shortly after the interval.

Worse was to come for Penarth as Neath converted a penalty corner to level the scores and, for a while, it appeared that the visitors could be about to steal all three points. A second goal for Watkins, again the result of a quick break sparked by James Davies, settled Penarth nerves, and the restoration of the two-goal cushion, courtesy of Rory Vizard, appeared to have put the game firmly back in the grip of the home side.

Neath, however, refused to concede, and reduced the deficit once again by benefitting from a deflection off Llewellyn's stick that left goalkeeper James Erasmus with no chance of saving.

Possession flowed from end to end in the closing minutes, with debutant Sam Salisbury showing a lot of promise linking between midfield and attack, but it was Neath on the attack when the final whistle sounded to bring relief to a Penarth side that should have made the game safe in the second half.

League games continue this weekend, with the 1st XI looking to build on a 3-0 away win against Cardiff Medics when they host bottom of the table Cardiff & Met 'C', and the 2nd XI travelling to Hawthorn to face the 'other' Llanishen & Caerphilly side in their division.

Further information about the club can be obtained from secretary Dave Stevens via: d_stevens81@hotmail.co.uk. **CL**

BARRY SAINTS HIT RAILWAY FOR SIX!

BARRY Saints kept up their fantastic start to the season with a 6-1 victory over Railway Wanderers.

Barry were ahead after a great corner by David Evans which was superbly headed back by Nathan Williams into the path of Andrew Wyatt.

Darren Townsend added his name to the scoresheet; after some tidy football from the back he was set free to finish well from a tight angle. Townsend grabbed his second after being released by Williams to smartly finish a one on one situation.

Man of the match Rhys Hocking was unfortunate not to get on the scoresheet after seeing his dipping 35 yard shot tipped on to the bar. Ashley Ashill got in on the act with a goal and Townsend completed his hat trick soon later when goalkeeper Nicky Elston sprayed a pass to the striker near the halfway line.

Townsend turned and ran at goal and struck a shot from well outside the box.

Saints were cruising, 5-0 up at halftime, but the second half started slowly, Saints making chances but never really showing the lethal touch in front of goal.

Saints were then reduced to 10 men. Almost immediately Saints conceded, as a long cross from the left was headed back across goal and left the striker with an easy header.

Saints struck back with Darren Townsend, who then added his fourth after beating the last man and finishing his one on one with ease.

Barry Saints now sit six points clear at the top of the table and welcome Vulcan Galaxy next at Wenvoe. **GL**

Barry & District LDS skittle league results

1st Division: Barry Stars (N Jones 33), Allsorts (H Bunting, R Dawe 33); SV Gals (J Richards 32), Coppers (D Nesbitt, J Hartnell 31); Pila Palas (E Dyke 34), Red Admiral (M Gee 33); Family Affair (C Edwards 29), Space Finders (D Carter 29); Bakers Dozen (M Rockett, S Howe, R Hewitson, J Mullins 25), Angels (B Niblett 27).

2nd Division: Divas (C Jenkins 27), Strikers (T Mills, M Pratt 23); Witchill Widows (S Murray 35), Roller Coasters (R Stillman 35); After Eights (C Hayes 33), Vixens (D Marks, H Jones, M Marks 31); SV Lights (B Kenefick 26), Bobby's Girls (S Seldon 30); Weebies (S Edwards 37), Castle Bandits (P Thomas 32); Breakaways (Vicky Martin 33), Clickies (A Batt 36).

3rd Division: Westenders (G Somers 28), Rhoose Ravers (J Bishop 28); Airways Angels (E Lewis, E Jones 24), Jolly Dollies (C Jones, C Thomas 26); Hill Billies (D Stewart 32), Rugby Triers (J Xvereb 34); Dolly Mixtures (E Bryan 28), SU Lds (K Lacny 22); Persuaders (K Kemp 25), Lil's Devils (S Harrhy 24); Friends & Neighbours (F Brown 29), Etcetera (C Mackintosh 28); Merry Makers (G Hawker 23), Witchill Wanderers (H Scott 26).

4th Division: Rebels (S Williams 26), Twilights (C Brown 29); Fallen Angels (C Stephen 33), Wyndham Witcams (V Walters 30).

5th Division: Hell Raisers (A Bennett 23), Barry Ravers (N Grant, L Smit 24); Liberals (C Chatwell 29), Smurfs (KT Williams 24); Socialites (A Hicks 28), Park Belles (S Davies 26).

MMG's Cup progress

MMG welcomed Canton Rangers to Severn Avenue for the first round of the South Wales Intermediate Cup.

Without knowing too much about the opposition, MMG knew that if they went out and played their own game then they would stand a good chance of progressing in this cup competition. A confident and assured start set the tone for the game.

Canton offered some resistance but MMG quickly took control of the game. An early contentious penalty shouted for MMG was waved away after Anthony Connell was clumsily bundled over in the box.

Justice was served only a few minutes later when Rhys Jenkins guided a well placed shot in to the top corner. The rest of the half was played out comfortably with the well organised defence and hardworking midfielders not allowing Canton to get a foothold in the game.

The second half started well and MMG soon got back into their rhythm. A change in midfield meant an introduction for Elliot Cayton, who quickly settled in.

A second goal was added midway through the second half; great build up play and a precise cross to the back post from Rhys Jenkins was finished by Anthony Connell, who headed the ball past the despairing goalkeeper.

Lee Galsworthy replaced the solid and hardworking Paul Eveleigh, and although Canton applied pressure in the last 10 minutes, MMG never looked like conceding, the final score 2-0.

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Win sees Barry make progress in Swalec Bowl

Barry RFC made progress in the Swalec Bowl on Saturday with a 28-8 victory over Penycraig, and Howard Poole was on hand to capture the team in action - turn to back page for the match report.

Coffee morning fun for golfers

ON September 25, a coffee morning was held at St Athan Golf Club.

As well as the St Athan ladies, over 60 ladies from other clubs in the Vale, Cardiff and Bridgend areas arrived to play a nine hole Stapleford competition. The conditions were superb with the course looking at its best thanks to our excellent green keepers.

After playing, the ladies returned to the clubhouse for refreshments and to peruse the stalls selling jewellery, golf clothes, cakes etc.

When all the ladies had finished their rounds, the results were announced by the ladies captain Jenny Young. The hard fought competition was in two sections; the first, for the visitors, was won by Diana Darcy from St Mary's Golf Club, with Audrey Harwood from Dinas Powys as runner up and Phyllis Parsons also from St Mary's in third place.

In the members' competition, Dilwen Phillips was the very popular winner, with Celia Grey-Scott delighting everyone by coming second after a long spell of ill health and in third place was Janet Davies continuing her winning streak. The prizewinners all triumphantly carried away beautiful garden lanterns.

The competition season is now nearly over, the high spot of which was the club championship which saw Michelle Bligh beating Liz Thomas in a see-saw of a match with Liz fighting until the end before being narrowly defeated by Michelle.

The Millenium Plate was won by Janet Davies over Gaynor Williams; after a hard fought contest, Gaynor, one of our up-and-coming players, was beaten on the 18th by Janet's long experience.

If any ladies are thinking of taking up golf next season, do come and talk to us at St Athan.

RMJ

Men's outdoor bowling season comes to a close

COWBRIDGE men's outdoor bowling season finally came to a close when we held our captain's day.

32 bowlers played 18 ends in a match between captain Norman Wilkinson's team and vice-captain Steve Dicken's team. The result was a win on all four rinks for the vice-captain by 71 shots to 45.

The rink with Clive Pritchard, John Collin, Brian Kent and skip Alan Wallace, beat Tony Lewis, Bryan Hole, Guy Morton and skip John Jones by 21-9.

Skip Dennis Snelling's rink with Terry Dunsworth, Danny Powell and Rob Lewis, beat Bill Harris, Mick Davey, David Thomas and skip Mike Bradley by 19-10.

Mansel Davey, Len Taylor/Eric Sewell, Byron Richards and skip John Trott, beat John Hunt, Phil Woosman, Colin Wilson and skip Roger Barwick by 17-14.

The rink with Charles Sanders, Terry Williams, Ron Frayling and skip Steve Dickens, beat Gerry Lloyd, Ron Woolford, Mansel Thomas and skip Norman Wilkinson by a close 14-12.

The match was followed by a super tea of sandwiches and hot crumbles, pies and cream, which were provided by four of our much appreciated ladies. Captain Norman wishes to thank all who helped make the day a big success.

NJW

Bridge results

SULLY bridge club results:

Monday, September 22, North/South - 1st Ev Kerslake/Sam Fellows 59.27, 2nd Shirley Powell/Janet Cunnington 55.94, 3rd Gareth Stone/Brian Gardner 53.67.

East/West - 1st Sean MacDougall/Italo Basiletti 63.83, 2nd Peter Blackwell/Hazell Hession 53.98, 3rd Pat Verdon/Pam Sherman 53.4.

Wednesday, September 24, North/South - 1st Bunty Wiseman/Anne Johns 64.12, 2nd Peter Millar/Trish Tracy 59.26, 3rd Margaret Evans/Debbie Dawkins 52.78.

East/West - 1st Carol James/Alan James 66.90, 2nd Anne Mac Dougall/Anne Hilary Jones 59.95, 3rd Maureen McCarthy/Phyllis Milner 54.86.

Saturday, September 27, North/South - 1st Kay Dyer/Reg Dyer 62.50, 2nd Shirley Powell/Pat Verdon 51.67, 3rd Joan Thompson/Sheila Kavanagh 47.50.

East/West - 1st Una Gavin/Pam Sherman 58.33, 2nd Brian Knight/Sue Knight 48.33, 3rd Richard Allely/Norman Ryley 47.50.

EK

Barry Athletic squeeze through in nailbiter!

SATURDAY saw Barry Athletic's senior side take part in the first round of the South Wales Intermediate cup where they were drawn away to AFC Perthcelyn from the Aberdare Valley Premier League.

With the Athletic finally being able to field a fully fit side for the first time this season, manager David Govier was hopeful his sides fortunes would turn around and gain a much needed morale boosting victory.

The Athletic started well with Lee Stradling, making his first start of the season, partnered up top with captain Meirion Evans, causing the home defence all kinds of problems.

The team looked confident all over the park with passing flowing football the order of the day and it was a delight to see given the problems over the first month of the season with so many players missing.

The breakthrough came on 20 minutes with Sean Parrish getting on the end of a good move and slotting the ball low into the corner of the net to put the away side one up.

This seemed to fire up the home side who were not in the mood to be beaten on home turf and they had a couple of decent efforts fly just over the bar.

They did get themselves back into the game on 35 minutes though when a free kick was poorly defended by the Athletic, resulting in keeper Huw Davies giving away what seemed to be a soft penalty with his eyes firmly locked on the ball. The two sides went in at halftime at 1-1.

The rally call at halftime was for much of the same in the second half, plenty of passing football which would undoubtedly continue to cause the home side problems.

It was backs to the wall stuff for the first 15 minutes though with the home side showing their intent on winning the game with some heavy pressure but rarely troubled Davies in goal and were kept to shots from distance by the Athletic back line.

As the half went on the away side got a grip of the game though and found themselves 2-1 up when Stradling was played in and calmly slotted the ball past the keeper.

The home side hit back almost straight away; when the ball was cleared out wide, the full back played a delightful ball back into the box to his striker in acres of room who made no mistake from 12 yards out - game on with 15 minutes to go!

With the game now end to end with both sides pushing for the win it fell to an unlikely hero with Lee Reid getting on the end of a free kick and bundling the ball into the bottom corner.

The home side, in their frustration, were reduced to 10 men which helped the Athletic see out the final five minutes of the game and pick a priceless morale boosting victory.

Thanks go to AFC Perthcelyn and The Mountain Ash Inn for their hospitality after the game and to the supporters who made the long journey up the A470.

Round two sees the Athletic welcome Llangeinor FC to Barry Island on Saturday, October 18; kick-off is at 2pm and, as always, the clubhouse will be open after the game to welcome friends of the club both old and new.

Barry Athletic: Huw Davies, Lee Reid, David Govier, Ben Jones, Mike Powell, Ady Gratton, Chris Cannon, Craig Rattenbury, Lee Marshall, Sean Parrish, Billy Gratton, Ben Stephenson, Michael Murphy, Meirion Evans (c), Lee Stradling.

AG

COWBRIDGE DARTS LEAGUE

ON Tuesday, September 23, the Edmondes Arms and the Hare and Hounds hosted the first rounds of the Fours, a four-player team knock-out competition.

At the Edmondes Arms the two victorious teams were the Edmondes 'A' (Steve Simmonite, Cedric Simmonite, Lee Harding, Trevor Morgan) and the Hare & Hounds (Simon Reader, John Izzard, Rob McCaver, Alun Evans, Jon Williams).

Meanwhile at the Hare and Hounds the two victorious teams were the Edmondes 'C' (Noyle Burt, Steve Huish, John Davies, David Thomas, Mark Dowling) and the Edmondes 'B' (Martin Thomas, Dai Thomas, Jonathan Cheal, Frank Butler, Paul Butcher). These teams will now meet in the semi-finals to be played at the Farmers Arms on October 14.

Present league standings remain unchanged, after two matches, are: Llanharry (15 points), Edmondes B (13), Highwayman Inn (10), Edmondes C (9), Farmer's Arms (7) Hare and Hounds and Edmondes A (6) and Old Post Ladies (4).

Next week, Tuesday October 7, there is a full programme of league matches. The Edmondes B hosts the Highwayman Inn, the Hare and Hounds hosts the Old Post Ladies, the Farmer's Arms hosts the Edmondes A and Llanharry hosts the Edmondes C.

All matches start at 8.15pm and spectators are welcome. For further information e-mail Paul at cowbridgedarts@gmail.com, up-to-date information can be found on the website: www.darts.apsn.co.uk.

PJT

We welcome your sports reports, news and items of interest - email us at: *gemeditorial@tindlenews.co.uk*

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62 **FORD Fiesta 1.2 Style 5-Dr.** In white, 25,000 miles, 1 owner **£7,295**
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58 **MAZDA 6 2.0 Diesel TS2** In black, 44,000 miles, climate, alloys etc **£6,995**
04 **BMW X3 Sport 2.5 Auto.** In met blue/beige leather, 71,000 miles, sat nav, pan roof etc **£6,995**
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Threadbare Barry second team put up a good fight

A threadbare Barry Second XV travelled to Clwb Rygbi more in hope than expectation in their first away fixture.

With 18 first team players injured and unavailable, coach Rhidian Scott and manager Ken Chow were forced to make 11 changes to the starting XV last weekend, bringing in Avaient, Bailey, Ring, Barclay and Harris from the 3rd XV, while Dix, Hewitson, Pugh, Turnbull and Rolfe made their first appearances this season. Manager Ken Chow was forced to fill a spot on the replacements bench.

The match started in a predictable manner as Clwb Rygbi laid siege to the Barry line. The away side had precious little preparation time with a scratch side, and in the early proceedings were no match to the well-drilled CRCC.

After the home side had opened the scoring with a well struck penalty, they turned the screw in the tight, forcing the Barry forwards to retreat, which enabled them to score two unconverted tries in the corner.

Barry lacked the experience to unlock a disciplined defence and were falling foul of the referee's whistle, which was frustrating for both sides.

The away side finally forced the issue by releasing the centre partnership and their destructive running drew a penalty opportunity, in which Joe McCann gladly accepted with his boot to reduce the deficit to 13-3.

With the scrums a mess and line-outs a lottery, Barry were to concede again just before halftime when Clwb Rygbi took advantage of their scrummaging power once more for another unconverted score.

Scott sent on James Sullivan to tidy up the set pieces and this proved to be a masterstroke, as after the interval Barry had the upper hand in this area.

This gave a platform for Pugh and McCann to release the backs and wing Michael Avaient looked to have grounded the ball beyond the line for his first try of the season, only to have the official wrongly rule it out.

Barry pressure finally told, however, as following several good forward pick-and-drives, scrum-half Gerwyn Pugh dived over under the posts to score. McCann added the conversion.

It was now the home side's turn to feel the pressure, as a combination of devastating running by Dix and Hewitson in midfield, combined with a clear dominance in the scrum, saw Barry camped deep in their opposition's 22.

By drawing in the CRCC defenders, McCann was able to send the ball out wide to Dix, who dived over to score a superb team try. McCann added the extras from out wide and the deficit was only now one point.

The home side came back with a try of their own after capitalising on a turnover, and with the conversion brought the gap back to eight points, seemingly making sure of the game.

Barry rallied, despite a collective fatigue and lack of experience, and were gifted a try when confusion in the Clwb Rygbi defence saw Dix diving on the loose ball to score his second. McCann stroked over the extras.

With only four minutes left it seemed the game was still in the balance and that the away side would at least be rewarded with a losing bonus point, but alas it was not to be as the home side had the last say, scoring the last try in an exciting game to leave the final score 32-24.

The management would like to commend the effort and attitude shown by the players on the pitch on the day, and would hope to have some of the more experienced senior players back in the fold next weekend.

Barry 2nd XV host Glamorgan Wanderers this weekend, while the 3rd XV are at home to Dinas Powys.

Team: D Evans; Avaient, Dix, Hewitson, Bailey; McCann, Pugh; Heard, Turnbull, Ring; Barclay, Harris; Rolfe ©, Dutton, J Evans. Replacements: Sullivan, van Birgelen, not used: Chow. Man of the match: McCann.

KC

Cottrell Park Seniors' Golf Society hold event

Back row, left to right: John Clarke, Eugene Murphy, Steve Cross, Ben Davies.
Front Row: Brian Pritchard, Richard Daniels, David Stephenson, Graham Kellett, Iain Ross.

THE inaugural past captain's day was held at Whitchurch Golf Club on Friday, September 12.

Eight past captains together with the current captain competed for the Past Captain's trophy, which was won by Iain Ross with 37 stableford points.

RD

WOLVES PROGRESS

DINAS Wolves edged this game with Sully Red 5-3, and moved into the next round of the cup in a thrilling match at Bryn y don.

Taking no time to settle B Harewood opened the scoring in the first few minutes, as he drifted into the box unmarked.

Sully responded very quickly when confusion allowed the Sully forward time to dance through to draw level.

The home side really struggled to get their passing game together and young Greg in goals for Sully was having an inspired game.

Sully then took the lead before a great strike from Booker left the score 2-2 at the break.

The second half showed the value of substitutes, as the visitors, after again taking the lead, tired as they only had the bare 11.

Eventually the home side were finding their team mates with passes and movement and further goals from Pereira, and Harewood, completing his hat trick, saw Dinas through to the next round.

Man of the match Z Fifield showed a cool head under pressure, and well done both teams on a typical cup match. **LS**

FAMOUS RIDERS FROM THE VALE
John Cook

IN 1971, Barry-born John Cook became the first Welshman to win the Grand National since Mervyn Jones had been successful on *Bogskar* 31 years earlier.

Riding the 28-1 chance *Specify*, owned by Fred Pontin, the 24-year-old former sailor who was in fifth place jumping the last fence behind *Sandy Sprite*, *Bowgeeno*, *Black Secret* and *Astbury*, conjured up a late dash on the long run-in to pip *Black Secret* by a neck.

In winning this exciting race, he displayed one of the coolest examples of horsemanship ever seen at Aintree. He was aged 33 and was having only his third ride in the race.

The previous year he had been going really well in the race on *Specify* only to be brought down by *The Otter* who fell directly in his path when jumping Beecher's the second time around.

John's parents used to do the catering for the apprentices at Kingsclere and that is where he served his own apprenticeship with Welsh trainer Evan Williams, who also hailed from the Vale.

However, his race riding career really took off in 1962 when he put an advertisement in the now sadly long defunct The Sporting Life requesting rides. As a result of the advertisement, he got a job with Frank Cundell at Aston Tirrold. John chalked-up the first of his 297 winners on *Samoan Sun* at Stratford the following year.

During his race riding career, he was associated with that good steeplechaser *Spanish Steps* on whom he won the 1969 Hennessy Cognac Gold Cup, the 1968 Black and White Whisky Gold Cup and half-a-dozen or so other big races.

Of *Spanish Steps* he said: "He had enough guts for ten horses." Sadly, a fractured leg owing to a race riding accident proved so bad that he had to hang-up his riding boots. He later emigrated with his family to Australia and it was there that he died in 1999 after a brave battle against illness.

He was just 62 but one thing is certain is that in his short life he had made his mark in the world of steeplechasing.

Adapted from Brian Lee's Welsh Steeplechase Jockeys, published by Cwmnedd Press in 1993.

BRIAN LEE

We welcome your sports reports, news and items of interest - email: *gemeditorial@tindlenews.co.uk*

Aberdare Cup test awaits Barry Town

Two south Wales teams who enjoyed success in recent Welsh Cup seasons will meet this weekend in the first round of the 2014-15 tournament.

Manager Gavin Chesterfield takes his Barry side to Aberdare on Saturday, in a meeting of the Welsh League's last representatives standing from the previous two seasons.

In 2012-13, Barry defeated Caerleon, Penrhyncoch, Ely Rangers, Pontardawe and Flint to earn a semi-final at neutral Newtown against eventual winners Prestatyn.

Last season, Aberdare caused a stir by knocking out the holders, as well as Treowen, Briton Ferry and Bodedern, en route to a quarter-final loss to Welsh Premier League outfit Bala.

However, fate has decreed that only one can advance to the second round this year, with Saturday's tie to be settled on the day, by way of extra-time and penalties if necessary.

Aberdare will have a number of familiar faces in their midst on Saturday, including manager Lee Phillips, who lifted a number of trophies during his time at Jenner Park and made almost 100 appearances in Barry colours.

Chesterfield meanwhile should have a full squad available to choose from, with the exception of long-term injury casualty Michael Hartley.

Kick-off at Aberaman Park on Saturday is at 2pm, with a full club fundraiser at the Wyndham Cons following from 7pm.

AC

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YOUR DEFINITIVE SPORTS ROUND-UP

Send your match reports, news and other items of interest to: gemeditorial@tindlenews.co.uk

ATHLETIC FALL TO SWANSEA LOSS

THE first ever league meeting between Bridgend Athletic and Swansea was played out in more or less ideal conditions at Newbridge Fields.

The Athletic were fielding an inexperienced set of backs with Lindsay MacCausland being sidelined with injury and in the pack a first opportunity was given to Henri Williams in the second row.

The visitors boasted many of the players who performed for them in the Premier Division last season with a smattering of young up and comers.

It was they who opened the game strongly with disciplined driving play producing quick ball for their waves of attackers. The Athletic defence stood firm and managed to set up an attack of their own which was just held up over the line.

From the following scrum a penalty resulted following good work by the front row of Rod Apsee, Matt Muir and hooker Simon Mustoe, but young fly-half Scott Govan pushed his kick just wide.

Back came Swansea with the driving play that would characterise their play throughout the afternoon and it took some solid tackling to keep them out.

A penalty at the breakdown relieved the pressure but when Swansea came storming back desperate defence gave away a penalty and resulted in a yellow card for centre Chris Price.

A scrum moments later was worked down the blindside for full-back Nicky Thomas to open the scoring with an unconverted try.

A break by home team man of the match, Dan Apsee found captain Sean Williams in support, but in the ensuing play the ball was bundled into touch.

From the lineout Swansea again kicked close to the Ath 22 and a half break by powerful 8 Steffan Jones created the platform for a try out wide by centre Aled Jenkins, which again went unconverted.

Minutes later good play between Govan and Aled Thomas allowed Sean Williams to put a dangerous kick in behind the defence only for opposing captain Paul John (a former Athletic junior player) to take him late and receive a yellow card for his trouble.

This led to Scott Govan opening the Athletic account with a well struck penalty. Although the half was drawing to a close, despite the additional 10 minutes found by the referee, Swansea came storming back at the Athletic and great goalline defence kept them out.

Even the loss of Thomas when he infringed at the ruck did not dent the home team's determination exemplified by Tom Penry-Ellis, Mustoe and Dan Apsee and the half closed with Swansea giving up a penalty to the resolute green and golds.

In the second half it became evident that the tide of attacks by the bigger Swansea outfit was likely to take its toll and that fatigue would outweigh enthusiasm and determination.

Swansea scored two tries in quick succession from Steffan Jones and Nicky Heywood, both converted by Nicky Thomas.

Iestyn Merriman and Sean Williams look for the gaps.

Lewis Down had replaced the injured Matthew Hillman and Iestyn Merriman was on for Mustoe. It was Merriman who initiated the attack that led to Dan Apsee forcing his way over for Govan to convert.

Unfortunately, the Athletic were unable to maintain their momentum and when a high kick caused consternation in the home defence, good inter-passing allowed the much travelled flanker Matthew Davies to crash over close to the posts.

Minutes later, from a training ground move off the back of a lineout, former Athletic player Marc Bennett scored in an almost identical position. Thomas converted both.

As normal time was running out a deft kick into space by Aled Thomas, who had replaced young Jake Williams at scrum-half, bounced into the hands of wing Stuart Griffiths who passed inside to the supporting Dan Howells, only for them to be called back for a foot in touch.

Swansea returned to the attack and continued in the same vein they had all afternoon which eventually, 11 minutes into injury time, resulted in a second try for full back Thomas which he also converted for the visitors to run out comprehensive victors.

Although the Athletic players can be proud of their determined defence and never say die attitude, John Apsee, Stuart Morris and Dai Williams feel they have plenty to work on in the attacking phases of play and that the team need to be more inventive and more accurate in preparation for the visit to TATA Steel this weekend.

Many thanks go to our match ball sponsor, Keith Miles of MHM One Call, for his continued support, which we are most grateful.

MD

BRIDGEND BRIDGE CLUB

THE results for Bridgend Bridge Club for recent events are:

Wednesday, September 24 - First, Jenny Vaughan and Irene Thomas; equal second, David and Norma Newman & Liam Sheridan and John Beard.

Friday, September 26, North South: First, Linda Pinnock and Marjorie Morris; second, Dian Jones and Tricia Cogbill; third, Tony Disley and John Evans.

East West: First, Jenny Vaughan and Irene Thomas; second, John Henson and Terry Dolan; third, Debbie and David Lea.

Regular club nights take place on Wednesdays and Fridays at Nolton Church Hall at 7pm. We try to start at 7pm so it helps if people arrive at least 10 minutes early.

On Thursdays from 2pm to 5pm, also at Nolton Church Hall, there are gentle bridge sessions for the less experienced where assistance is readily available.

The best placed improvers for September 25 were Susan Hunt, Stuart Davies, Colin Lewis, Teresa Griffiths and Linda Jenkins.

There are lessons on Thursdays at 11am, also at Nolton Church Hall, these are primarily for beginners and those who have played some bridge and would like to improve ether or both their bidding and card play.

It is still possible to book a place on the course - contact John Evans on 01656 880372.

DN

Bridgend Sports in round-robin action

BRIDGEND Sports under-9s faced a tough Sunday with another round robin set of games as Kenfig Hill joined in with the scheduled home fixture against Tonyrefail at Newbridge Fields.

The Sports youngsters played the two games back to back with the first against Tonyrefail.

The home team struck first with Iestyn John prominent in an early attack and after several phases of play, the ball was eventually worked to the wing again for him to score his first try of the season.

Tonyrefail hit back immediately with a try from their star player Sam Talbot. The Sports young players had, once again, paid the price for being slow to break into their tackling game.

The home team did however respond well with tries from Mackenzie Dent and Joel Rogers, the latter emanating from a Ben King charge plus good supporting play and linking from Tyron Davies.

Joel Rogers was really enjoying his first game of the season with some solid tackling and blistering running creating havoc for the away team. He was denied a second try following good defensive work near the touch line from Tonyrefail.

From the restart, Tonyrefail forced their way back into the game with another fine long range try through a Sam Talbot run from deep in his own half.

Some promising running from Sports players Thomas Chick, Tyron Davies and Jodi Keane could not break down the Tonyrefail defence.

Eventually the ball was lost in the tackle close to the away side's line. Sports applied good pressure at the scrum but somehow Tonyrefail scrambled the ball away to put that man Sam Talbot into space for him to score another long range try, making the halftime score 3-3.

The Sports scored first in the second half with a try for Dylan Morgan. He showed great determination to score.

Both teams tried to make ground but were cancelling each other's efforts out by applying early pressure on opposing runners at the restart.

Tonyrefail broke the deadlock as players Sam Owen and Sam Talbot scored for the away team to lead 4-5. The Sports responded with several runs, with Alex Stimpson, Dylan Morgan, Tom Chick, Callum Lewis and Thomas Coles to the fore.

The final try of the game was scored by Tyron Davies for the Sports to secure a 5-5 draw.

The Sports returned to the field for their second game of the morning against local rivals Kenfig Hill.

Kenfig Hill were keen to avenge their close 8-10 defeat at the hands of the Sports from two weeks previous. It was the home team who scored first however, following runs from Jodi Keane and Morgan Edwards.

Support play from Tyron Davies took play up to the Kenfig try line. Tom Chick was on hand to claim a deserved try from close range.

Kenfig Hill dug in and attacked again. It was clear the well-organised away side were eager to impose themselves on the game. They scored two tries from deep attacks, with Eli Cowen proving a handful in attack and defence.

He scored two tries, the first running from his own line after the Sports were penalised for encroaching too early. Kenfig Hill ended the half in the lead 1-2.

In the second half Bridgend Sports scored first again to level the game scores at 2-2 with a try from Tyron Davies.

The home team were now up for the game with Joel Rogers putting in some hard tackles along with Thomas Chick and Dylan Morgan. Alex Stimpson, Callum Lewis, Cian John and Ieuan Pilliner contributed but Kenfig Hill proved the stronger of the two sides, running in further tries from Eli Cowen and Donovan Rankin to edge the game 2-4.

The Sports claimed victory by two points the last time the sides played but it was Kenfig Hill who took the spoils by two tries this time. In the final game of the day Kenfig Hill defeated Tonyrefail 8-2 in a high quality game.

This week the Sports visit Tondu and will need to ensure they start well and work as a team if they stand a chance of competing against a side that has previously shown themselves be tough opponents.

SP

Ladies captain's hole-in-one

THERE was a 'hole-in-one' for Pyle and Kenfig Golf Club's lady captain Mary Ellis as she approaches the end of her successful year in office.

She achieved the hole-in-one on the sixth hole on P+K Open Ladies Day on September 10, witnessed by Gwyneth Parsons and Alana Brown.

The clubhouse erupted with applause as the lady captain entered, which was followed by vice captain Chris John presenting Mary with a well-earned certificate. The winners were Sheila Stuckey, Liz Morris and Joan Howells from Aberdare.

Other achievements for lady captain this year include winning the ladies' Joan Jones Rose Bowl and the ladies' Fruit Shield with team member Cheryl Western; Mary hands over to lady vice captain Lyn Lloyd in November.

Pyle and Kenfig welcomes all golfers to its championship golf course.

NG

Five more sign for Scorpions

SOUTH Wales Scorpions have retained five more players for the 2015 season.

Captain Phil Carleton, who has recently been named in the Wales squad for the forthcoming European Championships, heads the list. The 30-year old forward will retain his captaincy for a second season.

Half-back Shaun Owens has also signed a new contract while Cardiff-based trio Barrie Phillips, Matt Wilcox and Ian Newbury have also confirmed their involvement.

This brings the number of squad players to 15 with discussions in hand with a further 10 players to complete the squad for next year.

Scorpions coach Mike Grady said: "I'm delighted that another five of the 2014 squad have committed for the 2015 season."

IG